NATION

Train crushes 6 women crossing rly tracks in UP

≫ Page: 6 ≪

BUSINESS

India may cut Russian crude imports from Dec

≫ Page: 8 ≪

SPORTS

PM Modi meets victorious Indian women's cricket team

≫ Page: 9 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 6 NOVEMBER 2025 | THURSDAY | BENGALURU | 14 JUMADA I, 1447 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 302 | Pages: 9

On Bihar poll eve, RaGa drops H-Files bomb

Says BJP-EC stole 25 lakh votes in H'yana, EC junks claims

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

On the eve of the Bihar polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi unleashed what he called his "H-Files", a presentation alleging that the 2024 Haryana Assembly election was "stolen" through 25 lakh fake entries in the electoral rolls, enabled by what he described as a collusion between the Election Commission and the BJP.

Calling it a "centralised plan", Gandhi cited examples from the Rai Assembly seat, claiming that a Brazilian woman's photo was used 22 times across 10 booths, under names such as Seema, Sweety and Saraswati. He alleged the manipulation was wide enough to swing the poll outcome, saying, "The margin was 22,000 votes, the fake entries were 25 lakh. This was not an election, it was theft."

The BJP dismissed Gandhi's claims as "false, baseless and an attempt to defame India's democracy". Union minister Kiren Rijiju said that if the Congress had concerns, it should have approached the Election Commission or the courts, adding, "But he never does it."

Election Commission officials also rejected the charges, saying no objections or appeals were filed against the electoral rolls in Haryana.

Gandhi escalated his attack, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini were "not legitimately in government". He accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and his colleagues of "colluding" with the BJP in what he termed "Operation Sarkar Chori", a conspiracy, he said, to overturn a "Congress landslide".

Asserting he had "100 per cent proof", the Leader of Opposition said he was directly questioning the Election Commission and India's democratic processes. He urged young voters to "peacefully resist this wholesale theft of democracy," adding, "Gen Z must take this seriously your future is being taken away from you." —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a press conference in New Delhi ***PHOTO: PTI***

THE H-FILES

OPERATION 'SARKAR CHORI'

A look at Rahul Gandhi's serious allegations.

BRAZILIAN MODEL CASE
A woman voted 22 times in 10 booths in Rai Assembly under different names. Turns out she was a Brazilian model. Rahul said BLOs can't add one person in 10 booths. This was centralised at database level.

- "1 in every 8 votes in Haryana was fake."

Total fake votes:	25,41,144
Haryana voters:	2 crore

Rahul says over 12.5% votes were either faked or stolen.

Final vote count

INC:	54.31 lakh
BJP:	55.49 lakh
INC lost by 1.18 lakh votes	

Seats won

INC:	37
BJP:	48

Congress lost by 22,779 votes in 8 lowest margin seats.

3.75 cr voters to decide Bihar's fate today

PATNA, 5 NOV

Bihar heads into a crucial first phase of polling on Thursday, with 3.75 crore voters set to decide the fate of 1,314 candidates, including INDIA bloc leader Tejashwi Yadav and BJP Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

Polling will be held in 121 constituencies, where Digha in Patna has the highest number of voters at 4.58 lakh, while Barbigha in Sheikhpura has the lowest with 2.32 lakh. Kurhani and Muzaffarpur have the largest fields, with 20 candidates each, whereas Bhorey, Alauli, and Parbatta have just five candidates apiece.

A total of 45,341 polling stations have been set up, with a heavy rural concentration—36,733 booths located in villages.

The Election Commission said the electorate includes 10.72 lakh first-time voters, while those aged 18–19 number 7.38 lakh. The combined population of these constituencies is 6.60 crore, suggesting that nearly three crore residents are not on the rolls, either because they are underage or for unspecified reasons. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pgs 3, 4 & 5

- A total of 45,341 polling stations have been set up, with a heavy rural concentration. Of these, 36,733 booths are located in villages to boost voter turnout.

Man dies by suicide over SIR, 8th incident in WB

KOLKATA, 5 NOV

A middle-aged man allegedly died by suicide in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Wednesday, with his family claiming he was terrified of being struck off the voter list during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Trinamool Congress claimed that this was the eighth such incident in the state over fears of SIR. According to family members, Gazi, who was injured in an accident a few months ago, had grown increasingly anxious after the SIR process began in the state. The incident triggered political reactions, with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) accusing the BJP of "creating panic" through SIR. —*PTI*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support.

AI brings back 228 stranded flyers from Mongolia

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Around 228 passengers and 17 crew members who were stranded in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar were brought to Delhi on an Air India flight on Wednesday morning. The passengers were stranded in the Mongolian capital after their San Francisco-Delhi Air India flight was diverted to the Mongolian capital on Monday due to a technical issue. There were 245 people, including 228 passengers and 17 crew members, in the Boeing 777 plane that was diverted to Ulaanbaatar, a source said on Monday. "The relief flight carrying passengers and crew of AI174 who were stranded in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia after a precautionary diversion has landed in Delhi this morning," the airline said in a statement on Wednesday. —*PTI*

Mandya ryot who set himself ablaze dies

MANDYA, 5 NOV

A 55-year-old farmer who allegedly set himself on fire in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office here succumbed to his injuries at a Bengaluru hospital on Wednesday, police said.

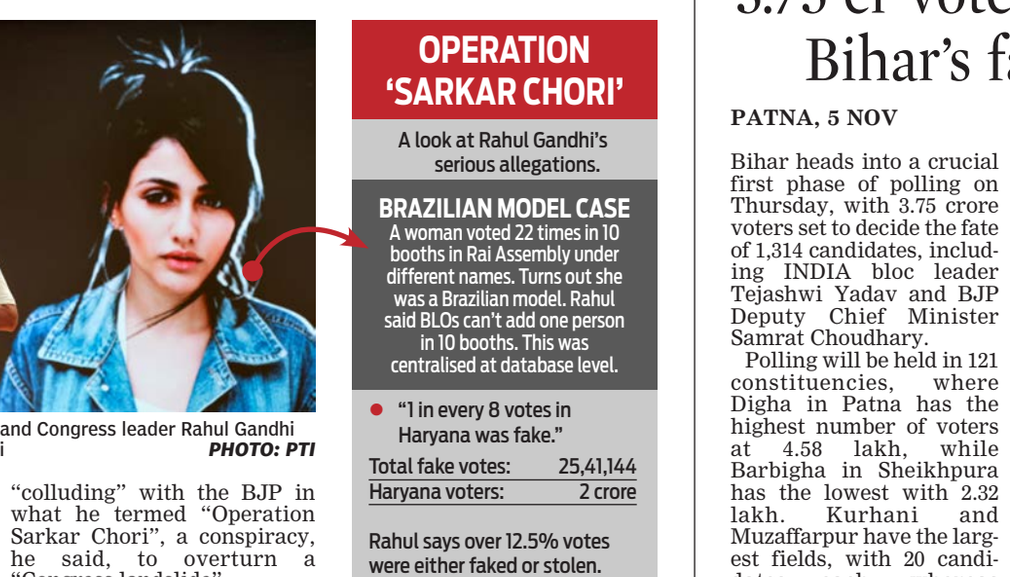
The deceased MD Manjegowda of Moodanahalli in KR Pet taluk, allegedly resorted to the extreme step as he had not received compensation in a land acquisition case for several years.

According to police, Manjegowda allegedly poured petrol and set himself on fire at Cauvery Park, opposite the DC's office. The locals rushed to his rescue and took him to the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS). As he had sustained over 60 per cent burns, he was shifted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru for advanced treatment, where he succumbed to injuries on Wednesday, a senior police officer said.

The police said they received no formal complaint so far regarding the cause for this extreme step. "We have not received any complaint from his family yet. Once we receive it, we will look into the allegations and initiate a necessary investigation," a senior police officer said. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

HAPPY GURU NANAK JAYANTHI



A family eats langar after members of the Sikh community offer special prayers on Guru Nanak Jayanthi at a Gurudwara in Bengaluru on Wednesday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Home alone woman murdered in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, 5 NOV

A 65-year-old woman, Shreelakshmi, was found murdered in her house in the Uttarahalli area of Bengaluru on Tuesday. A gold mangalsutra was missing leading the police to suspect it to be a case of robbery.

According to police, the matter came to light when her husband, Ashwath Narayan, who was at work, tried to contact call her. When she did not respond to repeated calls, he asked their tenant to check on her. "There were injuries on her neck, lips, and face, and her gold mangalsutra was also found missing," police saidsuggested she may have been strangulated to death. —*PTI*

Govt launches probe against Anil Ambani

MUMBAI, 5 NOV

Anil Ambani's Reliance Group is reportedly in more trouble as the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has initiated a fresh probe into alleged diversion of funds across multiple group companies, including Reliance Infrastructure, Reliance Communications, Reliance Commercial Finance and CLE Pvt Ltd.

According to sources, the case has now been transferred to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) after the MCA's preliminary findings indicated large-scale siphoning of funds and major violations under the Companies Act. The SFIO is expected to investigate the flow of money across group entities and pinpoint responsibility, after which action will be initiated against those found guilty.

The move comes at a time when ED has stepped up enforcement against the debt-ridden conglomerate. Earlier this week, the agency attached assets worth nearly Rs 7,500 crore belonging to Reliance Group firms.

Reacting to the charges, the Anil Ambani's Reliance Group said there is no impact on business operations of the group's listed companies because of the ED's attachment of Rs 7,500 crore worth of properties, which is linked to a money-laundering probe. —*Agencies*

IBM to lay off thousands of employees

MUMBAI, 5 NOV

In keeping with the ongoing trend of major tech companies laying off workers across several sectors in the last few months, International Business Machines Corp (IBM) is set to reduce thousands of roles to focus on software growth.

According to Bloomberg News the job cuts will take place in this quarter as the company shifts focus to software and service

According to Reuters, IBM last month recorded a slowdown in growth in the key cloud software segment. Its shares, which have risen over 35 per cent this year, were down close to 2 per cent on Tuesday. In recent months, several tech companies, including Amazon, TCS and Microsoft among others have announced layoffs as the focus shifts to artificial intelligence. According to Layoffs.fyi - a platform that tracks global tech industry layoffs - over 112,732 tech workers have been laid off across 218 tech companies in 2025 alone. —*Agencies*

WIN FOR DEMOCRATS

NYC elects 1st Muslim, S Asian mayor in Zohran Mamdani

NEW YORK, 5 NOV

Zohran Mamdani made history on Election Day, becoming the first South Asian and the first Muslim to be elected Mayor of New York City. The 34-year-old entered the race last year with virtually no name recognition, minimal funds and no institutional backing, yet beat the odds to defeat Republican Curtis Sliwa and former Governor Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent with a last-minute endorsement from President Donald Trump.

More broadly, Mamdani embodies the kind of figure many on the Democratic Party's left have long sought: young, charismatic and fluent in the language of social media. His identity reflects the party's diverse base, and he has openly championed left-wing causes — from universal free childcare and expanded public transport to government intervention in free-market systems. A self-described democratic socialist, he argues for prioritising workers over corporations and has vowed to "take on the billionaires", including higher taxes on the ultra-rich.

He has also made his Muslim faith a visible part of his politics, regularly visiting mosques and releasing campaign material in Urdu. His outspoken pro-Palestinian stance and criticism of Israel place him further left than much of the Democratic establishment. Notably, 63% of New York City's Jewish voters backed Cuomo, while 33 per cent supported Mamdani.

Born in Kampala to filmmaker Mira Nair and academic Mahmood Mamdani, he moved to New York at seven and became a US citizen in 2018. A graduate of the Bronx High School of Science and Bowdoin College, he worked as a foreclosure prevention housing counsellor before entering politics. Elected to the New York State Assembly in 2020, he represented Astoria and built his reputation on affordability issues.

He has pledged rent freezes, universal free childcare, fare-free buses and city-owned low-cost grocery stores. In 2021, he joined a hunger strike with taxi drivers that resulted in USD 450 million in debt relief. Mamdani argues that affordability remains New York's defining crisis — and promises to make the city "easier to live in" for working people. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 7

MAMDANI QUOTES 'TRYST WITH DESTINY'

Standing before you, I think of the words of Jawaharlal Nehru: 'A moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance'. Tonight, we have stepped out from the old into the new. So let us speak now, with clarity and conviction that cannot be misunderstood, about what this new age will deliver, and for whom.

In a proud moment, Zohran Mamdani's father Mahmood Mamdani, his wife Rama Duwaji, and mother Mira Nair join him on the dais after his victory in the New York mayoral polls ***PHOTO: PTI***

> **My mother was quoted at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival, where 'Salaam Bombay'! was being screened, saying, I'm the producer of the director. And now I say, 'I'm the producer of the candidate'.**
>
> —Mira Nair, Zohran's mom and filmmaker

Samosa Caucus hits record high

The "Samosa Caucus" reached a record high on Wednesday after many Indian-Americans won local polls across the US on Wednesday. The "Samosa Caucus" is an nickname for Indian-American lawmakers elected to public office in the US. Hyderabad-born Senator Ghazala Hashmi made history as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, the first Muslim American woman elected to statewide office. In Ohio, Aftab Pureval won re-election as Cincinnati Mayor, defeating JD Vance's half-brother.
The first Indian elected in the US was Dalip Singh Saund in 1957. Today there are nearly 60. However, this does not include federal appointees such as Vivek Ramaswamy and FBI Director Kash Patel.

3 killed after head-on collision near Bidar

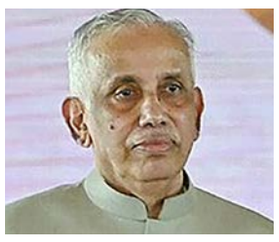
BIDAR, 5 NOV

Three people died on Wednesday after the car they were travelling in collided head-on with a vehicle operating for a courier service here, police said. The deceased are Rachappa, 45; Naveen, 25, and Nagaraj, 40, all residents of Narayankhed taluk in Sangareddy district of Telangana. The accident occurred around 7.30 am near Neelamandi Tanda in Bhalki taluk, when the group was returning after offering prayers at the Sri Dattatreya Temple in Kalaburagi, police said. Two others, Kashinath and Pratap, sustained serious injuries and were admitted to BRIMS Hospital in Bidar. The car, carrying five occupants, was taking a turn towards the Bidar-Kalaburagi highway through Humnabad, when it crashed into the DTDC courier vehicle. *—Salar News*

Man arrested for trespassing into girls' hostel

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 5 NOV

A man was arrested for allegedly trespassing into the girls hostel here. Police nabbed Raju, 26, a resident of Vadrepalya area in Chikkaballapur. The hostel warden filed a police complaint on 29 October alleging that one man was found wandering during the night on the terrace of the building located on TG Tank Road. CCTV footage showed the man touching the girls' clothes which were hung out to dry. Police said Raju is a labourer. Sub Inspector Amar said Raju appeared to be not in a stable state of mind. He said there are over 130 girls in the hostel. The incident has raised safety concerns *—Salar News*



Law varsity confers honorary doctorate on Andhra Guv

DHARWAD, 5 NOV

The Karnataka State Law University on Wednesday conferred an honorary doctorate on Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer. He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Laws degree during the university's seventh convocation held at University of Agricultural Sciences, in Dharwad. Karnataka Governor and KSLU Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot presented the academic honour. The event was also attended by Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation HK Patil, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of the university, among others. In his address, Nazeer thanked the Karnataka State Law University for conferring on him the Doctor of Laws degree, the release added *—PTI*

Karnataka's traditional art form 'Yakshagana' has captivated audiences in Israel with its dazzling blend of dance, costume, and storytelling drawn from the Ramayana and Mahabharat. The troupe performed at the Hadofen Fringe Theatre Festival in Petah Tikva, later Haifa and Ashkelon ***PHOTO: X @INDEMTEL***

Farmers threaten Punjab style highway blockade

Bommai urges CM to intervene, BJP asks where is Rahul

BELAGAVI/ BENGALURU, 5 NOV

The ongoing protest by sugarcane farmers in Belagavi district, now in its eighth day, is spreading rapidly to neighbouring districts as farmer organisations have announced plans to escalate the agitation by launching a "Punjab Model" protest from 7 November.

They plan to block the Pune–Bengaluru National Highway (NH-4) across all districts and taluk headquarters to ensure that the State government listens.

Farmers are demanding a fair price of Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane, as against the Rs 3,050 currently being paid by factories in the State.

Belagavi — often called the sugar bowl of Karnataka for its 30 sugar mills — has become the epicentre of the agitation. Most sugarcane-growing regions in the district have been economically paralysed for over a week. Farmers in Athani, Raibag, and Mudalagi taluks staged massive demonstrations on Tuesday, expanding the protest to newer areas.

Despite repeated appeals, neither the State government nor the sugar mills have addressed the growers' demands.

Farmer leaders said the protest would continue until the government fixes a uniform and remunerative price for sugarcane, comparable to the rates offered in other major sugar-producing states.

Farmers have been protesting in Belagavi district for the past eight days, demanding that the State government pay Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane, as against the current Rs 3,050 ***PHOTO: SALAR***

State president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Choonappa Pujari, said that the decision to hold a Statewide highway blockade was final. Protests are also planned in Mandya, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Haveri, and Dharwad, where farmers will stage sit-ins.

Former chief minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai, on Wednesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to immediately intervene, alleging that several ministers have "vested interests in the sugar business".

"However, the CM seems indifferent towards the farmers and is preoccupied with political calculations to retain his post, leaving him with no time to address farmers' problems," Bommai said.

Opposition Leader R Ashoka, asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, "Where is Kisan Nyay (farmer justice) for the farmers of Karnataka?"

State BJP President BY Vijayendra, who joined the protesting farmers in Belagavi on Tuesday, took part in the overnight agitation.

"If Rahul Gandhi's heart really beats for farmers, why is he silent when Karnataka's sugarcane growers (are protesting)?" Ashoka asked.

REBUKE HK PATIL

Farmers refused to meet Minister HK Patil in Mudalagi taluk. Patil, who was attempting to meet the farmers on behalf of the government arrived late for the meeting.

Hundreds of farmers ghearaoed his car and demanded to meet the Chief Minister instead.

ETHANOL SCAM?

Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil said in Vijayapura that the State's role in price fixation is limited. He noted that Minister Murugesh Nirani has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking intervention to address challenges in the sugar sector.

According to Patil, sugar exports have been halted and ethanol production reduced, making it difficult for factories to pay higher prices to farmers.

"The State government is in touch with the Centre to explore a price hike for sugar," he added. *—Salar News*

AFFAIR SUSPECTED

Police recovered the body from a sugarcane field Aland taluk, Kalaburagi district on Wednesday ***PHOTO: SALAR***

Kalaburagi man strangles wife, then buries body in field

KALABURAGI, 5 NOV

A man has been arrested for allegedly strangling his wife with a saree and burying her body in a sugarcane field at Bhusnoor village under Nimbarga police limits in Aland taluk, Kalaburagi district.

The deceased, identified as Mashak Bee, 38, of Koralli village, was allegedly murdered by her husband Lalasab Abdul Saab Goundi, 46, following a domestic dispute. Police said the couple, parents of three children, lived on leased farmland near Bhusanur, where Goundi had been engaged in agriculture for several years.

Investigators said the accused was in an extramarital relationship with a woman from the same village, which often led to quarrels. On 31 October, during another altercation, Goundi allegedly strangled his wife with her saree in a fit of rage. He later buried her body in the field and reported her missing to mislead police.

Following a complaint by the woman's family, police launched a probe and discovered the crime during interrogation. The accused has been arrested and produced before court, officials confirmed.

SP Addur Srinivasalu, DySP Tammaraya Patil, CPI Prakash Yathanur, and PSI Indumati visited the spot for inspection. A case has been registered at Nimbarga Police Station. *—Salar News*

Siddaramaiah asks Centre to recognise 'guarantee model'

BENGALURU, 5 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday urged the Centre to recognise the "guarantee model of Karnataka" and provide greater fiscal support and the rightful share of revenues to empower States to innovate and invest in their people. He was speaking at an event organised by the Fiscal Policy Institute here.

"Our goal is to ensure that the guarantee model of Karnataka becomes a national template for inclusive development, one that bridges regional and social inequalities and strengthens the spirit of cooperative federalism," he said.

The Congress government's five guarantee schemes are —200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), the additional 5 kg of rice to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders for two years (Yuva Nidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti).

CM Siddaramaiah pays respects to late MLA HY Meti, on Wednesday ***PHOTO: X @SIDDARAMAIAH***

"The guarantee schemes were not populist giveaways, but policy correctives and instruments of redistributive justice and inclusive growth in an era where the so-called 'trickle-down theory' has failed to reach the poor," he said. "We call upon the Union government to recognise this model and to provide greater fiscal support and rightful share of revenues."

He also dismissed claims that the schemes were a burden to the State, noting that Karnataka now had the highest per capita income in the country. *—PTI*

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

Robotic dogs displayed by a company at the inauguration of a month-long Startup Festival set to be held from 7 November to 7 December, at Startup Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Mysuru flyover: MP threatens legal action

MYSURU, 5 NOV

- Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar said that if proposed flyovers on Vinoba Road and JLB Road weren't shelved, his party would take to the streets in protest

Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar on Wednesday threatened to launch a legal battle against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's plan to build two cities in Mysuru.

Speaking at a press conference in Mysuru on Wednesday, Yaduveer blasted the State government's plan to construct a flyover on Vinoba Road and JLB Road, saying that public opinion wasn't taken before proposing the project and that Siddaramaiah's plan would diminish the city's heritage and green cover.

He said if the projects weren't shelved, his party would take to the streets in protest and move the courts.

Officials have already conducted the soil test and are preparing a detailed project (DPR), Yaduveer said.

The MP said that he would welcome a Metro rail project for Mysuru instead of Siddaramaiah's expansive plans in the blueprint, provided the Metro was developed underground like in Mumbai.

On the recently unveiled statue of former chief minister D Deveraj Urs, Yaduveer said the structure doesn't even look like the revered leader. Even Bharathu Urs, Deveraj's daughter, was unhappy, Yaduveer said. *—Salar News*

Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar addresess a press conference in Mysuru on Wednesday ***PHOTO: SALAR***

CM, DyCM tear into EC for 'colluding' with Centre

BENGALURU, 5 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday accused the Election Commission of colluding with the BJP-led union government to "strangle" the very democratic system it is meant to safeguard.

"Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has once again exposed the dark face of systematic electoral malpractice in India's election system," Siddaramaiah said on X.

Having earlier revealed large-scale voter fraud in Mahadevapura and Aland Assembly constituencies of Karnataka, Gandhi has now presented documented evidence showing how the entire election result in Haryana was manipulated, he said.

"These records demonstrate how the Election Commission, which is supposed to protect democracy through transparent and impartial elections, has instead colluded with the Union Government to strangle the very democratic system it is meant to safeguard," he added.

The CM also called on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to refrain from attempting to protect his "masters" and admit the truth.

Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on X asked the EC to provide clear answers as to why :the system was compromised. "When 1 in 8 voters is fake, it means the voice of real citizens is being silenced... (But) what was truly lost is the people's trust. This fight is not about one state, it is about saving democracy itself." *—Salar News with Agencies*

TIGRESS FEARED DEAD

People film themselves with tiger cubs in BRT; probe ordered

BENGALURU, 5 NOV

Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered a CID investigation after a video surfaced showing a few people photographing and filming three newborn tiger cubs under vehicle lights in an area that is suspected to be Bedaguli forest area of the Punajanur range in the BRT (Biligiri Ranganatha Tiger) Reserve, Chamarajanagar district.

Officials believe that the mother has died, as the tigress hasn't been located yet. In a written directive to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest Department, Khandre stated that complaints had been received alleging that certain individuals, including those linked to an organisation previously charged in a 2015 forest crime case, entered the forest, filmed the tiger cubs under vehicle headlights, and even touched them—violating the Wildlife Protection Act.

Meanwhile, discrepancies and confusion have arisen between the press release issued by the BRT Forest Division on 15 October. NGOs have alleged that the funds have been misused. A social activist Dinesh Kallahalli has urged the Karnataka government to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter.

The incident allegedly occurred on 13 October, 2024, in the Punajanur Range. The cubs, about 10 days old, were handled and filmed by individuals, including Javed, Rafeeq, and representatives of the Wild Caine NGO.

Kallahalli, alleges that the mother tiger may have been killed and that the incident is linked to a 2015 tiger bone and claw smuggling case in the same range. Kallahalli has written to the Forest Minister, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), and Director of BRT Tiger Reserve, seeking immediate action.

Khandre, therefore, deemed it appropriate to hand over the case to the CID for detailed investigation. *—Salar News*

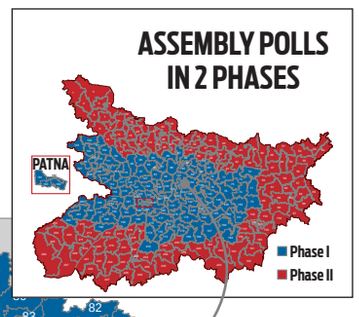
SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY
6 NOVEMBER 2025

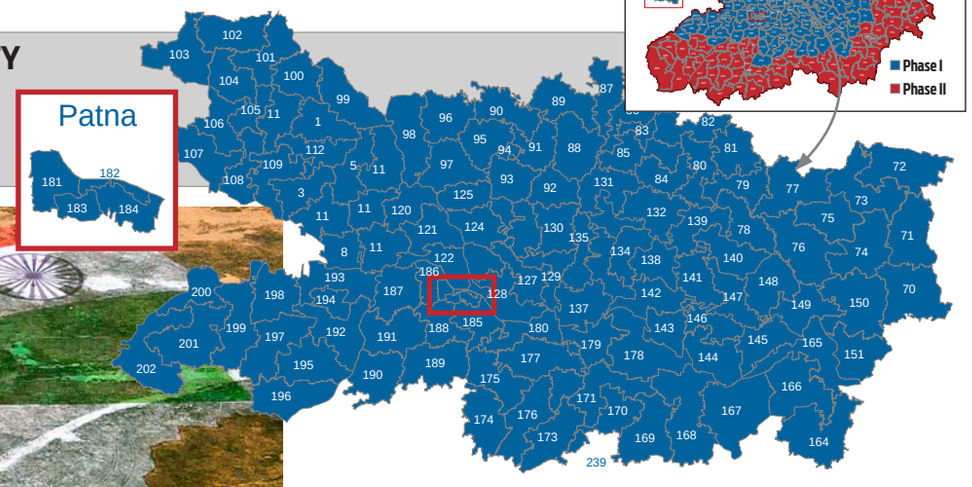
THE BIHAR SHOWDOWN

THE FIGHT FOR CHANGE

Bihar heads to polls on 6 November in a high-stakes contest for 243 seats and a 122-seat majority. The battle pits Nitish Kumar's NDA against Tejashwi Yadav's Mahagathbandhan, with Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party adding a new twist. Alliances are fragile, caste remains the key driver, and promises of jobs, power and women's welfare dominate campaigns. For Nitish, it's a fight for legacy; for Tejashwi, a shot at reclaiming his father's; for Bihar, a test of change versus continuity.



PHASE 1	SEATS	TOTAL SEATS	MAJORITY MARK
6 NOVEMBER	121	243	122



In Patna, a rangoli map of Bihar emblazoned with 'Vote Karega Patna' spreads an upbeat voter awareness message ahead of the elections ***PHOTO: PTI***

A state trapped between promises and problems

As Bihar steps into another election, it finds itself wrestling with old problems dressed in new promises. From jobs and crumbling bridges to floods and arid land, Bihar's 2025 woes echo one message — the state is hungry for progress but haunted by governance failures. Here's a ground-level view of the crisis:

MIGRATION CRISIS

Bihar's migration story remains unchanged. Each year, an estimated 20–25 lakh workers leave the state seeking jobs in major cities such as Bengaluru, New Delhi and Mumbai . The EC scheduled polling after Chhath Pooja to ensure migrant voters could return home, a sign of how deep this exodus runs.

CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE & COLLAPSING BRIDGES

Between 2024 and 2025, Bihar saw at least 12 bridge collapse. The state, which has over 3,900 bridges, launched audits of 85 major structures after repeated failures exposed poor construction and corruption. Recent heavy rains exposed vulnerabilities: hospitals, schools, public buildings, and roads were severely affected by waterlogging.

THE AI WAR

As campaigning intensified, Bihar's battle for voters shifted online, with AI videos, deepfakes and proxy pages becoming key political weapons. The digital war began in September, when dozens of proxy accounts launched hashtag campaign and meme barrages targeting rivals. Reportedly, BJP led the social media war with around 61 AI-generated reels, including its satirical 'Tabela Times' (buffalo-headed anchor mocking Lalu Yadav) series. JD(U) followed with 58 clips projecting Nitish Kumar's governance record and achievements in areas such as law and order, education, health, and infrastructure. Cong used 34 AI videos, including one showing an AI video Modi conversing with his late mother in a dream — captioned "Maa appears in Sahab's dreams" — which triggered a major row and Patna High Court ordered its removal. Meanwhile, RJD released 6 AI videos. Things took a wrong turn when actor Manoj Bajpayee condemned a doctored video falsely showing him endorsing RJD. The video, traced to an RJD IT unit, distorted an old ad Bajpayee filmed for a streaming platform. The actor urged people not to circulate misleading content and clarified that he was not a part of any party. Amid this surge, EC has warned parties, directing them to label AI-generated content.

Research: Anushree Chakraborty, Amina Afaq, Siddharth Saldanha, Amol D Mishra and Jayasree Jayaprakash
Design: G Vishwantha

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment remains Bihar's biggest woes. The unemployment rate stands at 3.4%, slightly above the national average of 3.2%, while urban youth unemployment has crossed 10%. Barely 2% of Bihar's youth find private sector jobs. Repeated exam paper leaks, from police recruitment to teachers' tests, have worsened frustration among youth.

FLOODS AND DROUGHT

The recent floods ravaged 31 of 38 districts in Bihar, impacting nearly 3 crore people. A major flood in August alone displaced about 25 lakh residents, prompting the state to release Rs 456 crore in relief and deploy NDRF–SDRF teams. Paradoxically, parts of southern Bihar faced a 50% rain deficit, triggering drought.

SIR CONTROVERSY

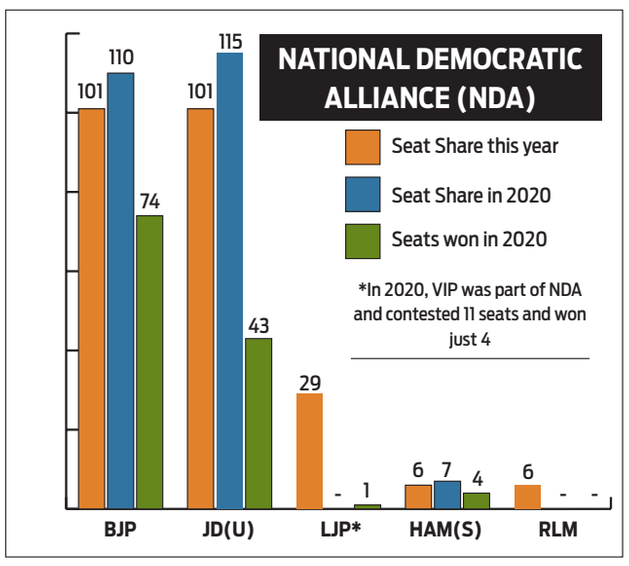
The Special Intensive Revision of Bihar's voter list, the first in 22 years, became a major flashpoint. During the process, 65 lakh names were deleted (of deceased, relocated, or duplicate voters), while 18 lakh new voters were added in the final rolls. Opposition parties alleged that voters from minority community were deleted and dubbed it 'vote chori' but EC dismissed the claims as politically motivated.

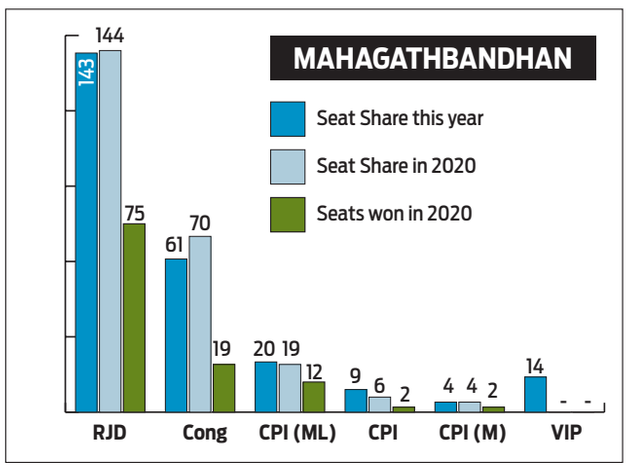
2020 RESULT

NDA	MGB	Others
125	110	8

ALLIANCES AND SEAT MATH

The game of alliances has always been central to Bihar's politics. No single party has ever secured a clear majority to form the government on its own. Since 2005, Nitish Kumar has remained at the helm, but always through coalition governments. Let's take a look at the key players:





THE THIRD-FRONT

There is also the emergence of Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) led by poll strategist Prashant Kishor contesting all 243 seats and possibly disrupting the two main alliances. These may not win huge numbers but could split votes and margins in key seats.

BIHAR'S CASTE EQUATION

ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD CLASS (EBCs)

36%
of population

OBCs	SCs	STs	General
27%	20%	2%	15%

*Source: 2023 caste survey (Jaati Adharit Ganana)

CASTE-COALITION MATTERS

RJD's core base
YADAVS
(14-15%)
+
MUSLIMS
(17.7%)

Among OBCs, Yadavs are the largest group.

BJP's base includes upper castes but it is reaching out to non-Yadav OBCs/EBCs.

PHASE 1 KEY SEATS

RAGHOPUR

It is a Lalu family stronghold. Lalu Prasad Yadav won from here in 1995 and 2000, while his wife Rabri Devi secured it three times. Since 2015, their son Tejashwi Yadav has been the MLA. RJD has yet again fielded Tejashwi this election. BJP has nominated Satish Kumar Yadav, who defeated Rabri in 2010 by 13,006 votes, but had lost to Tejashwi in 2015 and 2020.

TEJASHWI PRASAD YADAV
Age: 36 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: 9th grade
Criminal cases: 18
Assets: Rs 8.1 cr

SATISH KUMAR YADAV
Age: 59 | **Party:** BJP
Edu: MSc
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 32.64 L

MAHUA

Mahua, adjacent to Raghopur, was won by Tejashwi's elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav in 2015. Fearing loss, RJD shifted Tej to Hasanpur in 2020 then fielded Mukesh Raushan from Mahua, who won it. Tej's 2025 plan to "return to Mahua" led to suspension from RJD. Now contesting independently, he challenges RJD in this Yadav-Muslim-OBC-dominated seat.

TEJ PRATAP YADAV
Age: 36 | **Party:** Janshakti Janata Dal
Edu: Class 12
Criminal cases: 8
Assets: Rs 2.88 cr

MUKESH KUMAR RAUSHAN
Age: 37 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: Bachelor of Dental Surgery
Criminal cases: 7
Assets: Rs 93. 72 L

MOKAMA

Since 1990, this seat has been dominated by gangster-turned-politician Anant Singh's family. Disqualified from Assembly in 2022 after a UAPA conviction, Singh handed the seat to his wife, Neelam Devi, who later joined the NDA. Now back in the fray on a JD(U) ticket, "Chhote Sarkar" was arrested on 2 Nov for the murder of Jan Suraaj's Dular Chand Yadav. But Singh has accused his old underworld rival Suraj Bhan, aka "Dada", of framing him. Bhan's wife Veena Devi is contesting the seat from RJD.

ANANT KUMAR SINGH
Age: 58 | **Party:** JD(U)
Edu: Nil
Criminal cases: 28
Assets: Rs 37.88 cr

VEENA DEVI
Age: 52 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: 10th pass
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 1.25 cr

RAGHUNATHPUR

RJD has fielded Osama Shahab, son of late party strongman and gangster-turned-politician Mohammad Shahabuddin. Lalu personally handed him the party symbol. BJP has slammed the move, calling it a "mafia alliance".

VIKAS KUMAR SINGH
Age: 48 | **Party:** JD(U)
Edu: N/A
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 3.77 cr

OSAMA SHAHAB
Age: 31 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: LLB
Criminal cases: 5
Assets: Rs 2.31 cr

TARAPUR

Tarapur, dominated by the OBC's Kushwaha (Koeri) community with a strong Yadav presence, is shaped by intense caste dynamics. Winning over Kushwaha and Yadav voters is key to victory. The seat holds historic weight — veteran leader Shakuni Choudhary won it six times, and now his son, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary (BJP), is contesting.

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY
Age: 56 | **Party:** BJP
Edu: Doctor of Literature degree
Criminal cases: 2
Assets: Rs 11 cr

ARUN KUMAR
Age: 63 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: MA
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 1.17 cr

ALINAGAR

Alinagar is a key battleground with Brahmin, Yadav, and Muslim voters shaping its caste dynamics. Historically an RJD stronghold, it turned volatile after a narrow 2020 margin of 3,101 votes for Lalu's party, BJP has fielded folk singer Maithili Thakur, aiming to tap her huge youth following. Thakur rose to fame through reality shows and social media.

MAITHILI THAKUR
Age: 25 | **Party:** BJP
Edu: Graduate
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 4 cr

BINOD MISHRA
Age: 63 | **Party:** RJD
Edu: Post Graduate
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 24.8 L

LAKHISARAI

Lakhisarai is the home turf of Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha, a senior BJP leader seeking a sixth term. Part of the Munger region, it is influenced by Yadav, Bhumihar, and OBC voters, along with job and infrastructure issues. Sinha has won three consecutive terms since 2010.

VIJAY KUMAR SINHA
Age: 58 | **Party:** BJP
Edu: Graduate
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 11.51 cr

SURAJ KUMAR
Age: 27 | **Party:** JSP
Edu: Master's in Social Work
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 31.89 L

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU
WEDNESDAY
6 NOVEMBER 2025

THE BIHAR SHOWDOWN

PEOPLE'S POWER TO TEST BIHAR'S POLITICAL HEAVYWEIGHTS

Phase 1 will see 14 ministers & several high-profile candidates' contest

PATNA, 5 NOV

Bihar's high-voltage first phase of polling on Thursday features an array of heavyweight contenders, volatile family feuds and several star entrants, as voters decide the fate the fortunes of some of the state's most influential political figures. Over 14 ministers and several high-profile candidates are in the fray.

Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is contesting from Tarapur, returning to direct electoral politics after nearly a decade. His victory would solidify his standing within the BJP, a party he joined less than ten years ago but where he has swiftly risen. He faces a tough fight from RJD's Arun Kumar Sah, who had narrowly lost the seat in 2020 by about 5,000 votes. Fellow Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha is seeking a fourth straight win in Lakhisarai, challenged by Congress' Amresh Kumar and Jan Suraaj Party's Suraj Kumar.

Tejashwi Yadav, the alliance's chief ministerial face, is eyeing a third consecutive victory in Raghopur. He is up against BJP's Satish Kumar, who famously defeated Tejashwi's mother Rabri Devi in 2010. A potential three-way faceoff failed to materialise after Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor opted out of contesting the seat, fielding Chanchal Singh instead.

In neighbouring Mahua, Tejashwi's estranged elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, now heading the Janshakti Janata Dal, is attempting a comeback in a multi-cornered contest. The seat, currently with the RJD, has become one of the phase's most unpredictable battles with LJP (Ram Vilas) nominee Sanjay Singh and Independent Ashma Parveen, the 2020 runner-up, tightening the race.

BJP's Mangal Pandey, a minister and former state party president, is contesting his first Assembly election from Siwan, facing veteran RJD leader and former Speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary. Nearby Raghunathpur has drawn national attention with the candidature of Osama Shahab, son of late gangster-turned-politician Mohd Shahabuddin, a former Siwan strongman. The NDA has seized on his nomination to attack the RJD, linking it to the alleged return of "jungle raj".

The phase also features popular figures such as folk singer Maithili Thakur (BJP–Aliganj) and Bhojpuri stars Khesari Lal Yadav (RJD–Chhapra) and Ritesh Pandey (Jan Suraaj–Kargahar).

About a dozen ministers are contesting, including BJP's Nitin Nabin (Bankipur), Sanjay Saraogi (Darbhanga), Jibesh Kumar (Jale), Kedar Prasad Gupta (Kurhani), and JD(U) ministers Shrawan Kumar (Nalanda) and Vijay Kumar Chaudhary (Sarairanjan).

One of the most keenly watched battles is in Mokama, where JD(U)'s Anant Singh, currently in jail over the killing of a Jan Suraaj Party worker, faces RJD's Veena Devi, wife of Suraj Bhan, another figure with a criminal background.

The polls follow a special intensive revision of electoral rolls, which now list 7.24 crore voters, about 60 lakh fewer than before the exercise. —*PTI*

Polling officials deboard a ferry as they leave for election duty on the eve of Bihar Assembly elections in Patna on Wednesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

VOTING MADE EASY

- Voting can feel daunting but it doesn't have to be. Salar News has you covered.
- Here's a quick guide to help you find your polling booth, check required documents, and cast your vote with ease.

DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD CARRY

(ANY ONE IS ENOUGH)

- Voter ID (EPIC), passport, driving licence, PAN card, Aadhaar card, MNREGA job card, Labour Ministry smart card, health insurance smart card, pension document with photo, bank/post office passbook with photo

HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

(STEP-BY-STEP)

1. At entry, an officer verifies your Voter ID.
2. Then another officer inks your finger and gives you an admission slip.
3. Third officer takes your signature/thumbprint and strikes your name off the list.
4. At the EVM, an officer switches on the EVM, after which:
   - Press the blue button next to your chosen candidate's name & party symbol.
   - A beep + light flash confirms your vote.
5. Verify on VVPAT: oSlip with candidate name & symbol appears for 7 seconds.
   If incorrect, inform the polling officer immediately.

HOW TO FIND YOUR POLLING BOOTH

Website: electoralsearch.eci.gov.in

1. Visit the Voters' Services Portal.
2. Enter your EPIC (Voter ID) number and select Bihar.
3. Enter the captcha and click search.
4. Your polling booth name and address will appear.

Muslims branded as 'Bangladeshi infiltrators'

In poll-bound Bihar, the BJP has weaponised the "infiltrator" narrative, targeting Bangla-speaking Muslims in the Seemanchal region. Party leaders have repeatedly labelled them "Bangladeshi infiltrators", with speeches and campaigns particularly singling out Shershahbadi Muslims of Kishanganj and Katihar, whose dialect blends Bangla and Urdu.

PHOTO: | X/ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, @ECISVEEP

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

- BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have claimed that people entering from Bangladesh are altering the demography of border districts. From warnings that "infiltrators are taking Hindu land" to promises to "throw them out" if voted to power, the rhetoric has been consistent.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at an August rally, also referred to a new "demography mission" to track such alleged infiltrators.
- On 19 October, BJP's official X account posted a photo showing a bus labelled "RJD–Congress" carrying Muslims depicted as "evil" infiltrators heading towards Bihar, captioned "Infiltrator Express".
- EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists has triggered concern amid significant deletions of voter names in Muslim-majority districts. New rules under the Immigration and Foreigners Act now permit detention centres for those designated non-citizens.
- Social workers and experts say there is no evidence of large-scale illegal entry, arguing the narrative is being used to polarise voters. For many Muslim families, the "infiltrator" label has brought deep anxiety, even as it becomes a dominant election-season pitch.

Big promises but will they be fulfilled?

NDA

10,000 transferred to accounts of 7 lakh women.

2.1 lakh for women entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana.

1 crore jobs in 5 years.

125 units of free electricity per household.

MAHAGATHBANDHAN

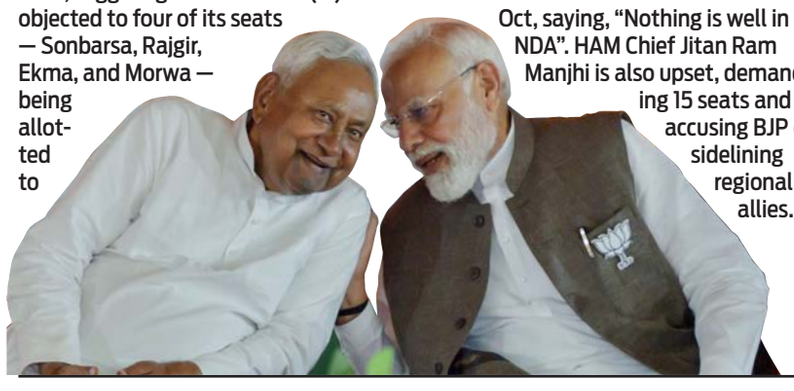
- One government job per household within 20 months.
- All contractual & Jeevika community mobilisers to be made permanent employees.
- 'Jeevika Didis' (Women who are members of self-help groups) to get Rs 30,000 salary, loan waiver, and Rs 5 lakh insurance cover.
- 200 units of free electricity per household.

JAN SURAAJ PARTY

- Lift liquor ban and revive local economy.
- 2,000 monthly stipend for all citizens above 60 years.

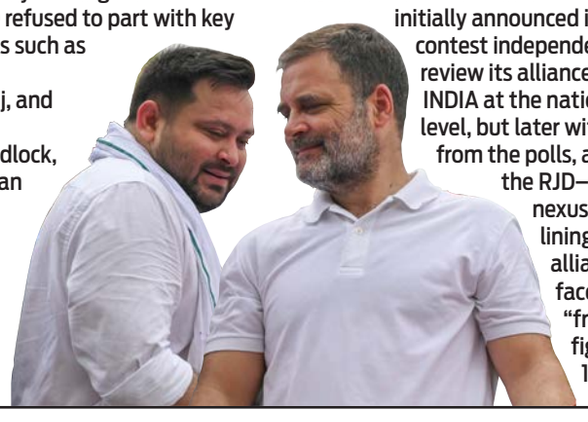
ALL IS NOT WELL IN NDA?

Cracks surfaced within NDA over seat-sharing. BJP and JD(U) secured lion's share with 101 seats each, while Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas) bagged 29. RLM and HAM got just six each, triggering discontent. JD(U) objected to four of its seats — Sonbarsa, Rajgir, Ekma, and Morwa — being allotted to LJP and fielded its own candidates there. RLM Chief Upendra Kushwaha, upset over losing Mahua to Paswan's party, withheld symbols, called an emergency meeting, and later left for Delhi to meet senior BJP leaders on 15 Oct, saying, "Nothing is well in NDA". HAM Chief Jitan Ram Manjhi is also upset, demanding 15 seats and accusing BJP of sidelining regional allies.



INDIA BLOC: THE HOUSE OF THE DIVIDED

INDIA has plunged into disarray over seat-sharing. The rift centres around Congress's demand for more seats — initially offered 52 by RJD, it pushed for 60 before finally settling for 61. However, RJD refused to part with key constituencies such as Kahalgaon, Narkatiyaganj, and Vasaliganj. Amid the deadlock, Congress began announcing candidates after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav filed his nomination from Raghopur. VIP chief Mukesh Sahani has demanded 24 seats but got 15, prompting fears of another exit like in 2020 when he defected to the NDA. RJD announced 143 candidates. JMM initially announced it would contest independently and review its alliance with INDIA at the national level, but later withdrew from the polls, accusing the RJD–Cong nexus of sidelining it. The alliance faces "friendly fights" in 10 seats.



FAMILY FIRST, PLEASE

Bihar's election once again highlights the dominance of dynastic politics across party lines, including the BJP and RJD. A recent report notes that regional parties such as RJD and JD(U) exhibit 30–40% dynasticism, warning that it "creates a birth-based ruling class". Despite Modi's 2024 remark that "family-run parties are a threat to democracy," many candidates from prominent political families continue to contest this election.

THE YADAVS' LONG RULE

LALU YADAV
Ex-CM and RJD President

RABRI DEVI, 66
Ex-CM
Relation: Wife

Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, 36
RJD
Seat: Raghopur
Relation: Son

Tej Pratap Yadav, 36
Janshakti Janata Dal
Seat: Mahua
Relation: Son

THE OTHER YADAV KIDS

Misa Bharti
Pataliputra's LS MP

Rohini Acharya Yadav
In 2024 LS polls, she contested from Saran but lost to BJP

Chanda Singh
The lawyer is an accused in the land-for-jobs scam.

Ragini Yadav
Married to SP leader Rahul Yadav. Not politically active. Accused in land-for-jobs scam.

Hema Yadav
Married to bizman Vineet Yadav. Not politically active. Named in land-for-jobs scam.

Anushka Rao Yadav
Married to Chiranjeev Rao, son of Ajay Singh Yadav, a politician from Haryana.

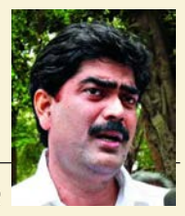
Raj Lakshmi Yadav
Married to Tej Pratap Singh Yadav, the grand-nephew of SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav

The Yadavs are among Bihar's most enduring political dynasties, having ruled the state directly or through alliances for 15 years.
Lalu Prasad Yadav, the patriarch, first became chief minister in 1990 and redefined state politics through his backward-caste mobilisation.
After being jailed in the fodder scam in 1997, he handed over power to his wife Rabri Devi, who went on to serve three consecutive terms until 2005.
Their reign, marked by widespread corruption and a collapse in law and order, cemented the RJD's Yadav-Muslim base while earning it the lasting "jungle raj" tag.
At 77, Lalu remains RJD's national president and moral centre. He and Rabri Devi have nine children, seven daughters and two sons, but it is their younger son, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who was chosen as heir. A former cricketer, Tejashwi assumed charge of the party in 2013 during his father's imprisonment and formally became its leader in 2025. He was chosen over his "rebel" elder brother, Tej Pratap Yadav, whose controversies have embarrassed the family.
Tejashwi made his electoral debut in 2015 from Raghopur and later served as deputy chief minister. His breakout 2020 campaign, marked by over 240 rallies and the slogan "Tejashwi tai hai!", revived RJD's fortunes and positioned him as Bihar's key opposition face.

Shakuni Choudhary, ex-MP
SAMRAT CHOUDHARY
Relation: Son
PARTY: BJP **SEAT: TARAPUR**

Deputy CM in Bihar's NDA govt, Samrat hails from a political family with deep roots in the OBC's Kushwaha community. His dad was the founder of Samata Party and an MP from Khagaria. He had served as MLA multiple times before quitting in 2015. Shakuni was also a part of with RJD, JD(U) and LJP.
Samrat began with RJD, later joined JD(U) and switched to BJP in 2014. He is now BJP's key OBC face.

Md Shahabuddin, ex-MP
OSAMA SHAHAB
Relation: Son



PARTY: RJD **SEAT: RAGHUNATHPUR**

The late Md Shahabuddin, once feared as the "don of Siwan" and RJD's strongman, ruled the region through fear in the 1990s & 2000s. A four-time MP and two-time MLA, he faced over 45 cases, including murder and died in 2021 while serving a life term. His wife Hena Shahab contested multiple polls but never won. Now, his son Osama debuts from RJD, drawing sharp BJP attacks as a reminder of "jungle raj" era. RJD insiders call it a bid to retain the Siwan stronghold.

EC & BJP will use vote theft to win Bihar too, says RaGa

BJP calls Rahul's claims 'baseless attempt to defame India'

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

A day before the first phase of the Bihar polls, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi intensified his attack on the Election Commission (EC) and BJP, alleging that the "industrialised system of vote theft" used in the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections was also be used in Bihar.

Gandhi warned that the same alleged fraud was underway in Bihar. "After the Bihar elections, we will present the records to show it has happened here too," he claimed, alleging that democracy in India had been "murdered".

Claiming the Haryana poll was "not an election but a lie", Gandhi reiterated that 25,41,144 entries on the state's electoral roll were fake, including 5,21,619 duplicate voters, 93,174 invalid addresses, and 19,26,351 bulk voters. He further alleged that 1,24,177 fake voter photographs were used.

"One in eight voters in Haryana is fake, yet the Congress loses by just 22,779 votes — the margin in eight seats," he said.

The Congress leader said his party would coordinate with the wider Opposition against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, arguing that "if the voter list is a lie, there is no democracy."

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference, in New Delhi, on Wednesday *PHOTO: PTI*

> NDA is indulging in vote theft because it is aware of the fact that the people are fed up with its 20-year rule
>
> -Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

He added that the role of the Opposition was to inform citizens of "the real world they are living in". Asked about approaching the judiciary, he said, "The Supreme Court is watching... it is not hidden."

Gandhi also played a clip of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini predicting a BJP victory two days before counting, stating: "We have a system in place."

He cited earlier voter roll discrepancies flagged in Mahadevapura and Aland in Karnataka to argue that the manipulation was "state-and national-level".

He again accused the EC of collusion, claiming Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar "lied" about the use of "house number zero", which the EC maintains is a standard practice for homeless individuals or unnumbered dwellings. Gandhi alleged the EC was refusing to remove duplicates as "it does not want fair elections".

The BJP dismissed the allegations as "false, baseless and an attempt to malign Indian democracy".

Union minister Kiren Rijiju accused Gandhi of trying to "instigate Gen Z", saying India's youth were "too wise to fall for such provocations". He cited internal Congress discord during the Haryana polls, noting that senior leader Kumari Selja herself had predicted the party's defeat. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Cong's leader faces flak for anti-Dalit jab at Buta Singh

CHANDIGARH, 5 NOV

Rival political parties continue to condemn Punjab Congress chief **Amrinder Singh Raja Warring**'s alleged casteist remark against former Union minister late Buta Singh, despite his apology. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the remark reflected Congress's "anti-Dalit mindset," while BJP and AAP leaders called it disgraceful and demanded action. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has launched a probe into the incident, directing the Tarn Taran deputy commissioner and SSP to submit an action-taken report within seven days under Article 338. Warring has tendered an unconditional apology, saying that Buta, a veteran Congress leader, was like a father figure to him, and he could never mean any disrespect to him or to anyone else. The Punjab State SC Commission has also summoned Warring on 6 November. Congress leaders defended him, saying his words were misinterpreted and that he had only emphasised the party's commitment to equality and inclusiveness. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Nine detained for pro-Pakistan slogans in Goa

PANAJI, 5 NOV

Police have detained nine people after pro-Pakistan slogans were displayed on the signboards of two shops in North Goa, officials said on Wednesday. Some locals complained to police about the LED signboards of two shops at Baga and Arpora beach villages displaying 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans on Tuesday evening, they said. "Nine persons connected with the two shops have been detained. The shops operate independently of each other," a police official said. The police have disconnected the LED boards and registered a case under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita section 152 (endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India) and provisions of the IT Act, the official added. *—PTI*

JD(U)'s Lalan claims FIR based on 'doctored' video

PATNA/PURNEA, 5 NOV

Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'** on Wednesday claimed that a video clip, which has led to an FIR against him over alleged violation of the model code of conduct in poll-bound Bihar, was "doctored".

The former JD(U) president, who was booked on Tuesday under relevant sections of the BNSS and Representation of People Act for a speech he gave in Mokama, expressed confidence that the investigation will take into account "the full video footage" and will lead to his exoneration.

"I respect the action initiated by the Election Commission, which is a constitutional, non-partisan body. But the video in question, which is also being shared by our rival RJD, is doctored," said Lalan.

He also accused the RJD cadres of threatening poor people in Mokama with dire consequences if they cast their votes in favour of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

JD(U) LEADER'S FAMILY FOUND DEAD

The elder brother of JD(U) leader Neeranjan Kushwaha, his wife and daughter were found dead at their home in Bihar's Purnea district, police said.

The bodies of Naveen Kushwaha, Mala Devi and Tanu Priya were discovered on Tuesday night in European Colony under Kehat Police Station limits.

Police suspect accidental deaths after Tanu reportedly fell from the staircase, followed by her father and then her mother's cardiac arrest.

Forensic teams are investigating.

Minister Lesi Singh and MP Pappu Yadav visited the family's residence. *—PTI*

Vijay named TVK's CM candidate, allowed to choose alliance

CHENNAI, 5 NOV

Actor-politician Vijay was on Wednesday named the Chief Ministerial candidate of his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), and authorised to decide on electoral alliances for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

At a special general council meeting held at a private hotel in Mahabalipuram, the party passed 12 key resolutions, including demands for women's safety, halting the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, and addressing the repeated arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Vijay, dressed in his trademark white shirt and stubbled look, said the next Assembly election would be a direct contest between the ruling DMK and TVK.

Referring to the September 27 Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives and left over 60 injured, Vijay expressed "indescribable anguish" and criticised the state government's "hasty" appointment of a one-member inquiry commission, later suspended by the Supreme Court. He also questioned senior officials holding a press conference to explain the incident. *—PTI*

Kerala to legally challenge SIR

T'PURAM/KOLKATA, 5 NOV

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced on Wednesday that the state will legally challenge the implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The decision was taken at an all-party meeting held online by the CM here.

All parties except the BJP backed the government's move, an official release said.

The CM said that, with local body elections approaching, legal advice would be sought both by the government and by political parties on how to question the SIR.

He added that conducting a special intensive revision of the voter list based on the 2002 rolls, when an updated list from the last Lok Sabha election is already in force, was "unscientific" and carried "malicious intent".

Several political parties voiced concern that using the 2002 electoral roll as the base would create numerous problems and alleged that the SIR was being carried out with a specific ulterior motive.

DAY-2 OF BENGAL SIR

Launching one of its largest electoral exercises in recent years, Election Commission of India has begun a month-long SIR of electoral rolls across West Bengal to update and verify voter records ahead of upcoming elections. On the first day of the drive, over 70 lakh enumeration forms were distributed by over 80,000 booth-level officers. *—PTI*

RS 50 CR ELECTORAL BONDS

'KTR prosecution delayed for two months'

HYDERABAD, 5 NOV

Suggesting that BRS and BJP are having a tacit understanding, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has claimed the file seeking nod to prosecute BRS leader KT Rama Rao in the Formula E race case has been held up with the Governor since two months ago.

Addressing a campaign rally here on Tuesday night for the 11 November Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll in support of Congress candidate, he asked why the CBI has not registered an FIR in the case related to alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project built during the previous BRS regime.

- Addressing a campaign rally on Tuesday night for the 11 Nov Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll, he asked why the CBI has not registered an FIR in the case related to alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project

The top leaders of BJP are trying to "save" BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao, he alleged.

"KTR collected Rs 50 crores in electoral bonds from a company by giving a contract in the name of Formula E Race. ACB registered a case with evidence and sought the Governor's permission for arrest. The file has been held up with the Governor since two months ago," he said.

He asked BJP leader and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy as to why the Centre is allegedly "not giving permission to arrest" KCR and nephew and BRS irrigation minister Harish Rao in the Kaleshwaram case and Rama Rao in the Formula E Race case. *—PTI*

RAJNATH SLAMS RAGA'S '10% OF INDIA CONTROLLED BY ARMY' CLAIM

BANKA, 5 NOV

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on Wednesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of "trying to create anarchy" by demanding reservation in the armed forces. Speaking at a rally in Bihar's Jamui district, Singh said India's military was "above all divisions", adding, "Our soldiers have only one religion Sainya Dharma."

Taking a jibe at Gandhi's recent fishing attempt during a Bihar campaign, Singh said the Congress leader "has no option left but to jump into a pond".

He also condemned Gandhi's claim that the Election Commission was complicit in "vote theft", calling the allegation "baseless" and accusing him of "targeting constitutional bodies" to cover up his party's looming defeat.

The minister further claimed that the NDA would return to power in Bihar with a two-thirds majority, accusing the RJD of corruption, intimidation and neglecting development, while asserting that the NDA governs without caste or religious discrimination. *—PTI*

VOTE CHORI
OPERATION 'SARKAR CHORI'
A look at Rahul Gandhi's serious allegations.
FIVE TYPES OF VOTE THEFT
Duplicate voters 5,21,619
Invalid addresses 93,174
Misuse of Form 6 (additions)
Bulk voters 19,26,351
(Forms not accessible post-Mahadevapura)
Misuse of Form 7 (deletions)
DUPLICATE PHOTOS
In several booths, one person's photograph was used to create multiple voter IDs. He claimed that one woman's photo was used for 100 voter entries in one assembly under different names. He said CCTV footage was destroyed so that these repeated voters cannot be identified later.
BLURRED PHOTOS
The voter list had 12,400 blurred or low-quality photos. As a result, poll staff can't verify if the voter is real.
SAME PERSON, MANY VOTES
Some voter IDs were linked to the same person voting multiple times:
Booth 431:
Shashank Giri allegedly voted 14 times.
Booth 130:
Rudra, Abhishek Jain and Naman Jain allegedly voted 18 times.
Duplicate entries could have been removed easily using data-matching or AI, but "the Election Commission didn't do it".
CROSS-STATE VOTING
Same voters allegedly voted in both Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.
Examples cited:
Dalchand, a BJP sarpanch in UP, and his son Yashvir voted in both states.
Prahlad, a sarpanch from Mathura voted in Haryana's Hodal.
THE HOUSE NUMBER '0' CASE
Many voters were listed as House No. '0' — a non-existent or unverifiable address.
What EC said:
Homeless people or migrants are sometimes assigned "House No. 0" as they live under lamppost or on footpaths.
Rahul's claim:
One Narendra's home appeared as House No. 0. However, he has a normal home with a postal address. Using "0" makes doorstep verification impossible, allowing non-existent or fake voters to go without detection.
TOO MANY VOTERS AT IMPOSSIBLE ADDRESSES
Rahul said 19,26,351 fake voters had addresses that showed unrealistically numerous residents.
House No. 150 (a BJP leader's home) had 66 voters.
House No. 265 (a hotel) had 501 voters.
House No. 1904 (a small house) had 108 voters
VOTERS DELETED WITHOUT REASON
Some voters' names were deleted at polling booths though they had voted in the Lok Sabha election just months earlier.
RaGa's claim:
Names were removed in areas where the Opposition has support.
DESIGN: SURENDHAR R

Leopard shot dead after multiple fatal attacks in Pune

PUNE, 5 NOV

A leopard believed to be behind multiple fatal attacks in Maharashtra's Pune district was shot dead by a team of sharpshooters late Tuesday night, forest officials said. The animal was spotted about 500metres from Mauje Pimparkhed in Shirur tehsil, where a 13-year-old boy was killed on Sunday, the third death in a month after two earlier attacks claimed an elderly man and another minor. As the leopard turned aggressive during a capture attempt, officials said a tranquilising dart failed, prompting shooters to open fire around 10.30pm. The carcass was sent to the Manikdoh Leopard Rescue Centre for post-mortem. The attacks had triggered widespread unrest, with residents pressing for swift action. *—PTI*

Delhi: 3 minors sexually assault 9-yr-old boy, held

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Three minors have been apprehended for allegedly sexually assaulting a nine-year-old boy, police said on Wednesday. The incident came to light on 4 November when the child's relative approached the police, accusing three minors of committing crime, police added. According to the complaint, the minors, one aged 13 and the others aged 16, lured the boy to a secluded rooftop area and sexually assaulted him. They allegedly threatened the child with dire consequences if he revealed the incident to anyone, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Nidhin Valsan said. A case was registered under Section 6 (Punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Valsan said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Filmmaker flays jury over award to rape accused Vedan

T'PURAM, 5 NOV

Noted filmmaker Deedi Damodaran on Wednesday slammed the Kerala State Film Awards for naming rapper Hirandas Murali, who had been accused in a rape case, as the 'Best Lyricist.' Murali, renowned as Vedan, has been recognised for a song in the movie 'Manjummel Boys.' In a Facebook post, Damodaran said the lines "viyarppu thunnititta kuppayam" (the shirt stitched with sweat...) in the song penned by Vedan were magnificent, but that award, stained by the blood from the wounds of the complainants, is an injustice. The jury's decision amounts to a breach of trust against the government's policy declarations at the recent film conclave that "those who exploit women will not be protected," Damodaran further said. *—PTI*

VP, PM to join Satya Sai Baba centenary event

PUTTAPARTHI, 5 NOV

Devotees from nearly 140 countries are coming together for the centenary birth celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba from 13 to 24 November in Puttaparthi. "Everyone in the Sai mission feels this is a momentous occasion, a special occasion, a once-in-a-lifetime occasion for them to express their commitment and to rededicate themselves to the cause of Sai mission, to the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, that is -- Love all, serve all. Help ever, hurt never," Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust managing trustee RJ Rathnakar said in an interview with PTI. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President CP Radhakrishnan are also expected to take part in the celebrations. *—PTI*

Train crushes 6 women crossing rly tracks in UP

Train hits passengers after they got down on wrong side

MIRZAPUR, 5 NOV

Six women were killed on Wednesday morning after being run over by an approaching train while they were getting down from the wrong side at Chunar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district, railway officials said.

The incident occurred around 9.30am when passengers alighted from the Chopan Express onto the tracks and were struck by the incoming Netaji Express travelling from Howrah to Kalkaji. Amit Singh, Public Relations Officer of the NCR Prayagraj Division, said the victims were part of a group of pilgrims who had come to Mirzapur for the Kartik Purnima Snan ritual on the Ganga river and were returning home after the ceremony.

According to officials, the Chopan Express had halted at platform four, but several passengers ignored safety announcements and warnings from railway staff. "Despite the availability of a footover bridge, they were crossing the platform from the tracks, due to which the incident happened," the Railways said in an official statement, adding that an internal inquiry has been ordered.

Government Railway Police Inspector Raghvendra Singh confirmed six deaths and said the bodies were sent for a post-mortem. The deceased were identified as Savita, 28; Sadhna, 16; Shiv Kumari, 12; Anju Devi, 20; Sushila Devi, 60; and Kalawati, 50, all residents of nearby villages.

CM Yogi Adityanath offered condolences to the bereaved families and directed officials to expedite relief and rescue operations. Teams from the National and State Disaster Response Forces were deployed, while senior officials reached the site to monitor the situation.

Union Minister and local MP Anupriya Patel also expressed grief on X, terming the incident 'heart-wrenching' and urging authorities to ensure medical care for those hurt and help for affected. *—PTI*

Despite the availability of a footover bridge, the passengers were crossing the tracks, due to which the incident happened **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

- According to officials, the Chopan Express had halted at platform four, but several passengers ignored safety announcements and warnings from railway staff, adding that an inquiry has been ordered

Chhattisgarh train accident: Death toll rises to 11

BILASPUR, 5 NOV

The death toll from Tuesday's train collision near Bilaspur station in Chhattisgarh rose to 11, officials said on Wednesday. The MEMU passenger train from Gevra in Korba district rammed into a stationary goods train around 4pm while approaching Bilaspur, injuring 20 passengers.

A Railway statement said immediate rescue operations were launched and the injured were taken to Apollo Hospital and the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences. The impact was so severe that one coach climbed onto a goods train wagon. A preliminary probe found the passenger train overshot a red signal and hit the stationary rake at 60–70 kmph. "It is being investigated why the loco pilot failed to brake in time," an official said.

Loco pilot Vidya Sagar died, while assistant pilot Rashmi Raj was critically injured. The Railways announced Rs 10 lakh for each victim. CM Vishnu Deo Sai announced Rs 5 lakh aid. *—PTI*

HUNT FOR BARON

SC tells ED to nab Mahadev betting app fugitive

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

The Supreme Court has directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to trace and secure absconding Mahadev betting app co-founder Ravi Uppal, who reportedly fled Dubai for an undisclosed location. The court said white-collar criminals cannot treat the justice system as "instruments to play around with."

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma expressed shock over Uppal's disappearance, observing, "This shocks our conscience and the court has to do something about it." The bench warned that Uppal's petition challenging a Chhattisgarh High Court order could be dismissed if he continues evading the law.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, told the court that Uppal escaped Dubai, where he was detained in December 2023 under an Interpol Red Notice. "He may have fled to a location without an extradition treaty with India, possibly the British Virgin Islands," Raju said.

The court urged ED to locate Uppal, noting that he appeared "quite resourceful, flying from one place to another." The bench also asked the agency to examine whether its recent ruling allowing probe bodies to summon defence lawyers under exceptional circumstances could aid in tracing absconders.

- Justice Sundresh advised Uppal's counsel to ensure his client's return, stating, "He cannot keep running forever. If he cooperates, we will consider bail at the appropriate stage"

Justice Sundresh advised Uppal's counsel to ensure his client's return, stating, "He cannot keep running forever. If he cooperates, we will consider bail at the appropriate stage." Uppal and associate Sourabh Chandrakar founded the Mahadev betting app in 2018, which allegedly enabled illegal online betting worth Rs 6,000 crore nationwide. *—PTI*

Delhi pants for breath as air quality remains 'poor'

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Delhi's air quality showed marginal improvement on Wednesday but remained in the 'poor' category, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) at 273, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. On Tuesday night, the city's AQI stood at 291.

Among 37 monitoring stations, 27 reported 'poor' air quality, while Shadipur recorded 'very poor' levels at 308. A day earlier, several areas such as Wazirpur, Jahangirpuri, and Bawana had breached the 400-mark, touching the 'severe' range. The National Capital Region (NCR) also reported high pollution levels, with Ghaziabad at 334 and Noida at 342, while Loni in Ghaziabad registered a 'severe' AQI of 420.

According to CPCB, an AQI between 201–300 is classified as 'poor', 301–400 'very poor', and above 400 'severe'. The minimum temperature settled at 18.4°C, about three degrees above normal, with 89 per cent morning humidity.—*Agencies*

Men row a boat on the Yamuna river as a layer of smog engulfs the city amid deterioration in air quality in Delhi-NCR, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

TRIAL RUN MISHAP

A monorail coach suffers major damage after hitting a beam during a signalling trial around 9 am on Wednesday at Wadala depot in Mumbai. No passengers were on board. Two crew members were safely rescued with minor injuries. Officials term it a 'minor incident' and confirm tests continue under safety protocols **PHOTO: PTI**

NISAR set to be operational on 7 November: ISRO chief

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

NASA and ISRO will declare their jointly developed NISAR satellite operational on Friday, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan announced.

Launched on 30 July via GSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, NISAR—Earth's costliest observation satellite—can scan most land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days. It is the first mission to carry dual radars: L-Band measures soil moisture, forest biomass, and landice movement, while S-Band monitors vegetation, crops, and snow moisture. Narayanan added that India plans its first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in January, aims for human spaceflight by 2027, and will launch the first module of the Bhartiya Antariksh Station by 2028, completing the full five-module orbital station by 2035. *—PTI*

- NISAR, Earth's costliest observation satellite, can scan most land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days. It is the first mission to carry dual radars

Man missing for a year, found buried at home; Wife, lover held

AHMEDABAD, 5 NOV

In a chilling case echoing the plot of Drishyam, police have exhumed the skeletal remains of a man allegedly murdered by his wife, her paramour, and two accomplices, who buried his body beneath the kitchen floor of their Ahmedabad home nearly a year ago.

The victim, identified as Samir Ansari, a mason from Bihar, had been missing for about a year before a crime branch team discovered his remains from his locked residence in Sarkhej on Tuesday night. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ajit Rajian said Ansari's wife Ruby, now absconding, conspired with her lover Imran Vaghela and his relatives Rahim and Mohsin to kill Ansari, dismember his body, and hide it under the kitchen floor.

Vaghela has been arrested, while Ruby and the two others remain at large. "The bones and other remains have been sent for forensic and DNA analysis," Rajian said.

The probe began three months ago after police received a tip that Ansari had not been seen in the neighbourhood and no missing complaint had been filed. During questioning, Vaghela confessed to the murder, claiming Ruby orchestrated the killing as Ansari often assaulted her after discovering her extramarital affair.

After the crime, Ruby allegedly told neighbours her husband had left the city for work and continued living in the same house for months before moving elsewhere with her two children. The house was sealed after the exhumation in the presence of an executive magistrate. *—Agencies*

Bribe-linked share profits are crime proceeds: HC

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

The Delhi High Court has ruled that profits earned from investing bribe money in the stock market remain "proceeds of crime" under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The court said that any appreciation in value does not purify the tainted origin, as the increased worth is inextricably linked to the illicit source.

A division bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar observed that money laundering is a continuing offence, extending beyond the initial act of receiving illegal funds to every process connected with them, including layering and projection as lawful wealth.

The judges explained that if a public servant invests a bribe in real estate, narcotics or shares, the illegality persists irrespective of how the money is routed or its later value.

The ruling came while allowing the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) appeals in the Fatehpur Coal Block case involving M/s Prakash Industries Limited (PIL).

The ED had attached assets worth Rs 122.74 crore, alleging that PIL fraudulently obtained the coal block and misled the Bombay Stock Exchange, inflating its share price.

The bench set aside a single judge's order, upholding the ED's power to issue a provisional attachment and confirming the gains as proceeds of crime. *—PTI*

'NO SAFFRON IN IT'

Salman Khan in legal trouble for 'misleading' pan masala ad

KOTA, 5 NOV

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has landed in legal trouble after a complaint in the Kota Consumer Court alleged that advertisements for Rajshree Pan Masala, which he endorses, are misleading and deceptive.

The complaint, filed by senior BJP leader and Rajasthan High Court advocate Inder Mohan Singh Honey, claims the ads falsely promote the product as containing "saffron-infused cardamom" and "saffron-infused pan masala." Honey argued that saffron, priced at nearly Rs 4 lakh per kg, cannot logically be used in a product sold at Rs 5, and such claims mislead consumers, especially the youth.

The Kota Consumer Court issued notices to Khan and the pan masala manufacturer, seeking their formal responses before the next hearing scheduled for 27 November.

"The company and actor claim the product contains saffron, which encourages youth to consume it. As a public figure and role model, such endorsements can send a harmful message," Honey told ANI. He added that celebrities in other countries often avoid endorsing even soft drinks, whereas some Indian stars promote products with serious health risks like oral cancer.

The petitioner has sought a complete ban on the advertisements. While Khan serves as the brand ambassador for Rajshree Elaichi and not the pan masala variant directly, the court has taken cognisance, and responses from both awaited. *—Agencies*

The ad claims product is infused with saffron **PHOTO:SCREENGRAB**

Kerala sanctions Rs 20 cr for anganwadi workers

T'PURAM, 5 NOV

The Kerala government has sanctioned Rs 20 crore for the disbursement of pensions and other benefits to retired anganwadi workers.

Finance Minister KN Balagopal said the amount was allocated to the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Welfare Fund Board to cover pensions and death benefits for former members and their families.

He noted that the Board, lacking financial self-sufficiency, relies on state aid for welfare payments. While it currently receives Rs 2.15 crore monthly as its welfare fund share, Rs 4.26 crore is needed each month solely for pension distribution.

Balagopal said the state has extended Rs 76 crore in financial support to the Board over the past four and a half years to ensure timely welfare payments. *—PTI*

- Minister KN Balagopal said the amount was allocated to the Anganwadi Workers, Helpers Welfare Board to cover pensions and death benefits for former members and their families

DEMOCRATS SWEEP ELECTION DAY

In fiery victory speech, Zohran dares Trump

WASHINGTON, 5 NOV

Zohran Mamdani, the 34-year-old Indian-origin democratic socialist, secured a monumental victory in the New York City mayoral election and immediately threw a direct challenge to President Donald Trump, signalling emergence of a new political order in the face of growing public discontent with the Republican leader's second term.

The victory is seen as push back against Trump's contentious crackdown on immigration.

"I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologise for any of this," Mamdani told his jubilant supporters at Brooklyn Paramount Theater.

The Mayor-elect also sent a firm and direct message to the US President.

"Since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: turn the volume up," Mamdani said.

"If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him, and if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power," Mamdani said. "This is not only how we stop Trump, it's how we stop the next one."

Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and his wife Rama Duwaji during an election night watch party, Tuesday in New York. **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump has attacked Mamdani, not only because of his Muslim faith, but also because he was a "communist". Mamdani's opponents refused to learn how to pronounce his name for the most part of the campaign.

The New York Mayor-elect also condemned "oligarchy and authoritarianism". He will be inaugurated as the 111th mayor of New York in January.

Mamdani's victory was no easy feat as billionaires poured money into supporting his opponents – most notably Independent Andrew Cuomo. Mamdani has been a vocal critic of Israel's onslaught in Gaza and of PACs, which allow private donors to fund politicians. The wealthy therefore campaigns which showed his beard darker than it was, to instil fear due to his Islamic faith and accused him of being an agent of Hamas.

Meanwhile, Israel has threatened to close down its embassy in New York City. *—PTI*

Meet the First Lady of NYC, Duwaji

Mamdani's wife, Rama Duwaji has played a key role in shaping the Mayor's campaign. The artist, who is of Syrian descent, reportedly designed Mamdani's iconography and stylised his campaign brand identity. While she has broadly been out of public eye during electioneering, she has been instrumental behind the scene. Interestingly, the couple met on Hinge. Duwaji moved to New York just four years ago.

Mamdani's young political strategist

Moriss Katz, Mamdani's political advisor is credited as being one of the brains behind the blistering campaign. "We need to bring back the politics of possibility," the 26-year old had told The Hill. One of his firm, Fight Agency's, biggest pushes has been to ensure that Mamdani has a grand narrative – a conclusion reached after reflecting on former VP Kamala Harris' presidential loss.

> **I am a Muslim... and I refuse to apologise for it.... Donald Trump, if you are listening, I have four words for you. Turn the volume up.**
>
> —Zohran Mamdani, winner of New York Mayoral race

> **(This) a reminder that when we come together around strong,a forward-looking leaders who care about the issues that matter, we can win**
>
> —Barrack Obama, former US president

> **We got our a** handed to us in New Jersey, Virginia, and New York City.**
>
> —Vivek Ramaswamy, Republican politician

A night of many firsts across the US

Detroit Mayor-elect Mary Sheffield; Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval; Virginia Senator Ghazala Hashmi **PHOTO: X**

WASHINGTON, 5 NOV

Democrats dominated the first major Election Day since President Donald Trump returned to the White House. This may be a real problem for Trump's GOP heading into next year's higher-stakes mid-term elections.

Democrats won governor's races in Virginia and New Jersey, the only states electing new chief executives this year. They also swept a trio of state Supreme Court contests in swing-state Pennsylvania and ballot measures from Colorado to Maine. In the Virginia state legislature, House Democrats flipped 13 seats for their biggest majority in nearly 40 years.

Former Rep Abigail Spanberger will be Virginia's next governor — and its first female chief executive — while Rep Mikie Sherrill won the New Jersey governor's office.

Sherrill will be New Jersey's second woman governor.

India-born Ghazala Hashmi, 61, was elected as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, becoming the first Muslim and South Asian American in the post. Indian-origin mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, Aftab Pureval, won a second term defeating Republican challenger Cory Bowman, half-brother of Vice President JD Vance.

Pureval, 43, a former special assistant US attorney, first claimed the mayor's office in 2021. His Tibetan mother fled China as a child and grew up in an Indian refugee camp, while his father is Punjabi.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens breezed through re-election. Detroit City Council president Mary Sheffield will be the first woman mayor.

Democrat Corey O'Connor won the race for Pittsburgh mayor. *—PTI*

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE AGES

From a New York lawmaker to Mayor, the former rapper's campaign took over social media like a storm. Here are some highlights of New York's first Muslim Mayor:

DHOOM MACHALE DHOOM!

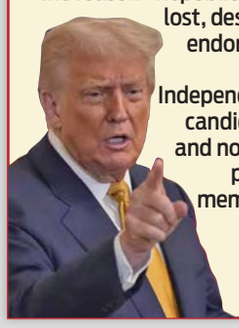
Senior Democrat leader Bernie Sanders with Zohran Mamdani and New York Democrat leader Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez **PHOTO: X**

Why Mamdani can never become President

Mamdani can never run for President. Born in Uganda in 1991, Mamdani is not a national born citizen. Article II, Section 1 of the US Constitution states, "No person except a natural-born citizen... shall be eligible to the Office of President."

TRUMP EXPLAINS WHY REPUBLICAN'S LOST

Trump state two reasons why Mamdani's victory. First, "Trump wasn't on the ballot" and the second being the US government shutdown. Trump said that it was the reason "Republicans" lost, despite endorsing an Independent candidate and not his party member.



Mamdani's story

Born in 1991 in Kampala, Uganda, his family moved to NYC when he was 7. Mamdani became a naturalised US citizen in 2018. In 2020, he Elected to the New York State Assembly.

Public funding

Mamdani has been a vocal critic of PACs, which are private donors who fund political players. In a series of social media posts, Mamdani asked the public to fund his campaign. After having raised $, the maximum amount, he asked the public to stop sending donations.

The Israel vote issue

In June 2025, Mamdani said he would arrest Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu if he steps foot in NYC. The US is not a signatory to the ICJ which has issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu. The interview made Mamdani an internet sensation. His stance was different then Democrat candidate Andrew Cuomo and outgoing Mayor Eric Adams. Adams and Cuomo repeatedly pledged allegiance to Israel's genocide in Gaza during the Democrat Primary debates, while Mamdani remained a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause. Mamdani comfortably beat the two seniors to become the Democrat candidate. Cuomo later announced he would contest as an Independent.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? ZOHRAN'S KEY PROMISES

Mamdani's campaign focused on affordability and rent in one of the world's most expensive cities. He has a $10B proposal to fund the dream:

HIS PROMISES AND FUNDS REQUIRED:

Freeze the rent. On average, 481 sq. ft apartment costs **$4,153**

2,00,000 new homes.

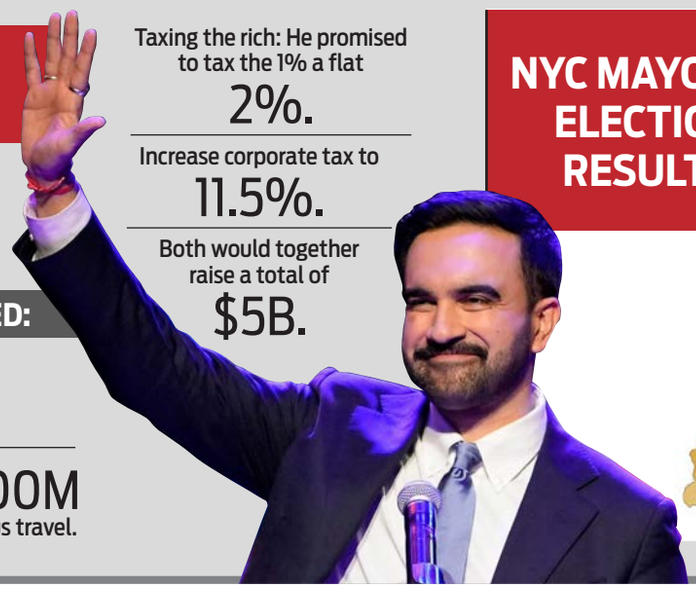
$5B for free childcare.

$700M free bus travel.

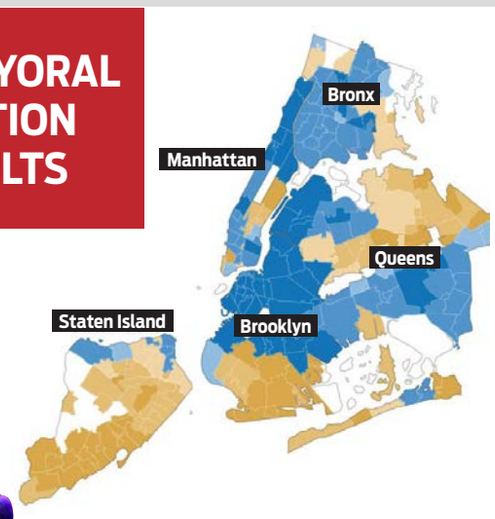
Taxing the rich: He promised to tax the 1% a flat **2%.**

Increase corporate tax to **11.5%.**

Both would together raise a total of **$5B.**



NYC MAYORAL ELECTION RESULTS



MAMDANI (DEM) 50.4%

CUOMO (IND) 41.6%

SLIWA (REP) 7.1%

RESEARCH: SIDDHARTH SALDANHA; DESIGN: G VISHWANATHA

Calling out Cuomo

Mamdani attacked former NYC governor Cuomo over the sexual assault allegations. During the Mayor debates, Mamdani said one of the victims was in the crowd, and asked Cuomo to respond to the allegations.

85 dead, 75 lost in Philippines typhoon

MANILA, 5 NOV

Typhoon Kalmaegi has killed at least 85 people and left 75 missing in the central Philippines, many swept away by flash floods in Cebu province still recovering from a deadly earthquake, officials said Wednesday. Six others died when an air force helicopter en route for relief work crashed in Agusan del Sur. Kalmaegi packed winds of up to 130 kph and gusts of 180 kph before moving into the South China Sea. Cebu was the worst hit, with dozens drowning as rivers overflowed. Authorities blamed quarrying and poor flood control projects for worsening the deluge. More than 387,000 people were evacuated.

The storm is forecast to reach Vietnam's coast Friday, with Thailand also issuing heavy rain alerts. *—PTI*

US govt shutdown is now the longest ever

WASHINGTON, 5 NOV

The United States Government shutdown has entered its 36th day, breaking the record as the longest ever and disrupting the lives of millions of Americans with federal program cuts, flight delays and leaving federal workers nationwide without pay checks.

US President Donald Trump has refused to negotiate with Democrats over their demands to salvage expiring health insurance subsidies until they agree to reopen the government. But sceptical Democrats question whether the Republican president will keep his word, particularly after the administration restricted SNAP food aid, despite court orders to ensure funds are available to prevent hunger.

Trump, whose first term at the White House set the previous government shutdown record, is set to meet with GOP senators. But no talks have been scheduled with the Democrats.

Trump's approach to this shutdown stands in marked contrast to his first term, when the government was partially closed for 35 days over his demands for funds to build the US-Mexico border wall.

However, this time food aid, child care funds and countless other government services are being seriously interrupted. *—PTI*

WRITES TO IAEA, UN

Is Pak building nukes in the Sindh mountains? asks group

KARACHI, 5 NOV

A coalition of Sindhi civil-society groups and the Sindhudesh movement has raised urgent international concerns over alleged clandestine nuclear-related activity in remote mountainous areas of Pakistan's Sindh Province.

In a formal letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the groups claimed that the tunnels had heightened military secrecy and had intensive construction, likely being used for nuclear storage.

The Sindh mountain range in Pakistan **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA**

Multiple underground tunnels and chamber systems had been constructed in areas north of Jamshoro near Noriabad, around Kambar-Shahdadkot, and west of Manchar Lake said Shafi Burfat, Chairman of Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz, who shared the letter on X. The letter warned that if nuclear materials are indeed present in these underground facilities, there could be severe risks of radioactive contamination, environmental damage. The letter urged immediate international verification from the UN and IAEA. *—ANI*

NEPAL'S 9 LEFT PARTIES MERGE INTO ONE

KATHMANDU, 5 NOV

Nine left parties, including the CPN (Maoist Centre) and the CPN (Unified Socialist), on Wednesday merged to form the Nepali Communist Party, months ahead of the general elections on 5 March.

The unified party will be called the Nepali Communist Party.

CPN (Maoist Centre) chairman and former prime minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' will act as coordinator of the new party, while CPN (Unified Socialist) chief Madhav Kumar Nepal will be co-coordinator. The factions joining the merger include Nepal Samajbadi, CPN (Socialist), Janasamajwadi Party Nepal, Nepal Communist Party, CPN (Maoist Socialist), CPN Samyabadi and the Deshbhakta Samajbadi Morcha led by Gopal Kirati. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Sharad Agarwal appointed as Tesla's India head

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

American EV major Tesla has appointed former Lamborghini India head Sharad Agarwal to lead its India operations, sources said. The appointment comes at time when the company is looking to strengthen its presence in the Indian market. Tesla opened its first experience centre in Mumbai in July followed by a second experience centre in Delhi at Aerocity in August. It has commenced deliveries of Model Y after introducing the model in July this year. The redesigned Model Y, the world's best-selling electric vehicle in 2023 and 2024, is available in two trims: rear-wheel drive and long-range rear-wheel drive. After Lamborghini, Agarwal took on the role of Chief Business Officer at Classic Legends, a Mahindra & Mahindra unit. *—PTI*

Housing prices surge 7-19% across 8 cities: PropTiger

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Housing prices across India's eight major cities rose between 7 and 19 per cent in the July–September quarter, driven by strong demand, according to PropTiger, now owned by Aurum PropTech Ltd. Delhi-NCR led with a 19 per cent jump to Rs 8,900 per sq ft, fuelled by luxury housing and infrastructure upgrades. Bengaluru and Hyderabad followed, with prices up 15 and 13 per cent year-on-year. Chennai and Pune saw 9 per cent growth, while Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai recorded gains of 7–8 per cent. Experts said the surge reflects resilient demand and improving infrastructure, with key corridors like the Dwarka Expressway boosting Delhi-NCR's appeal and Bengaluru maintaining strong buyer confidence. *—PTI*

BIRET to buy B'luru office campus for ₹13K crore

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Brookfield India Real Estate Trust (BIRET) will acquire the 7.7 million sq ft Eco world office campus in Bengaluru for Rs 13,125 crore to expand its portfolio. The trust reported a 13 per cent rise in Net Operating Income to Rs 509.4 crore for July-September and declared a Rs 336 crore distribution to unit holders, up 14 per cent year-on-year. The deal involves acquiring 100 per cent equity in Arliga Ecoworld Business Parks Pvt Ltd from Brookfield group entities. The purchase will raise BIRET's gross asset value by 35 per cent. CEO Alok Aggarwal said the acquisition marks BIRET's entry into Bengaluru, strengthening its position. *—PTI*

PhysicsWallah set to launch Rs 3,480 cr IPO on 11 Nov

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah is set to float its initial public offering (IPO) on 11 November, targeting Rs 3,480 crore to fuel its expansion and growth initiatives. The company's maiden public offering will conclude on 13 November, and anchor investors will be allocated shares on 10 November, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP) filed on Wednesday. The upcoming IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 3,100 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares aggregating up to Rs 380 crore by promoters, it showed. The company opted for the confidential pre-filing route, which allowed it to withhold public disclosure of IPO details until later stages. Of the fresh issue proceeds, PhysicsWallah said Rs 460.5 crore will go towards fit-outs of new offline and hybrid centres. *—PTI*

India may cut Russian crude imports from Dec

Top 3 Indian refiners imported more than half of 1.8M barrels

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

India is set to reduce its direct imports of Russian crude from late November, following new US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, effective 21 November.

Indian refiners accounting for more than half of the country's import of Russian crude oil, which is turned into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries, are expected to comply with the latest sanctions on Moscow's two largest oil exporters, analysts said.

This, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler, will trigger a sharp decline in Russian arrivals in December, with gradual recovery projected through early 2026 via intermediaries and alternative trading routes.

Top importer Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a long-term supply contract with Rosneft, will stop taking Russian oil. Two other state-controlled refiners have said they are stopping Russian oil imports. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, a joint venture of steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Energy and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have announced plans to suspend future imports.

Russian shipments to India reached 1.6-1.8 million barrels per day before the US sanctions *PHOTO: FREEPIK*

The three accounted for more than half of the 1.8 million barrels of Russian crude oil imported in the first half of 2025.

However, Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery, partially owned by Rosneft and already under EU sanctions, is likely to maintain its Russian crude intake.

According to Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining & Modelling) at Kpler, Russia remained India's top crude supplier in October, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Russian shipments to India reached 1.6-1.8 million barrels per day (mbd) before the sanctions, with declines observed post-October 21 as refiners avoided potential US OFAC exposure.

Analysts say Russian barrels are unlikely to disappear entirely, but future imports will rely on more complex logistics and trading arrangements.

Overall, refiners are likely to broaden their import baskets, with higher inflows from Latin America (Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Guyana), US, West Africa, and Middle East. *—PTI*

ASSETS RECOVERY

NCLAT rejects Reliance Realty plea, urges liquidation

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

The appellate tribunal NCLAT has set aside an appeal filed by Reliance Realty, a step-down entity of debt-ridden Reliance Communications, seeking recovery of rental and assets from Independent TV, a firm which was in DTH business and is now facing liquidation.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld the earlier order passed by the Mumbai bench of NCLT, which had declined Reliance Realty's plea and said the liquidation process of Independent TV has to be completed in a time-bound manner and in the shortest possible time.

A two-member bench said the liquidation process should not be "disrupted and derailed by the Appellant (Reliance Realty) who for no cogent reasons had never agitated the issue of ownership of assets lying in the leased premises".

Reliance Realty had leased

part of Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City premises (DKAC) along with pre-package infrastructure facilities on 27 November, 2017 to the Independent TV (corporate debtor) to run its Direct to Home (DTH) business and for storage of good.

Independent TV had acquired the DTH business from the group following the execution of a Share Purchase Agreement on 27 November, 2017 along with a draft agreement for premise use. *—PTI*

Fitch revises Adani Ports outlook to stable

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Fitch Ratings has revised its outlook on Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) to 'Stable' from 'Negative', signaling reduced contagion risks within the Adani Group. The agency reaffirmed both companies' long-term issuer default ratings at 'BBB-'.

Fitch said the revision reflects the conglomerate's continued access to diversified funding sources, even after a November 2024 US indictment involving board members of Adani Green Energy Ltd.

The risk of contagion from the US investigation has eased for AESL and Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd (AEML), supported by robust liquidity and financing avenues.

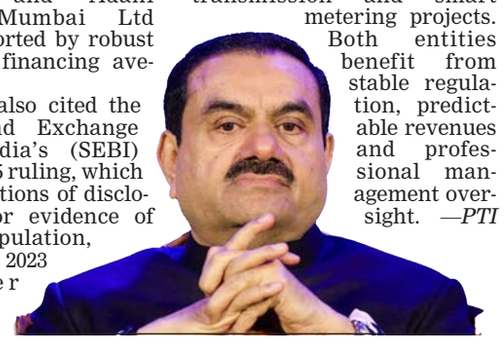
The agency also cited the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) September 2025 ruling, which found no violations of disclosure norms or evidence of market manipulation, as alleged in a 2023 short-seller report.

Adani Group companies have raised over USD 24 billion from domestic and overseas lenders since late 2024, including USD 1.8 billion by AESL for network expansion.

Fitch said the group's investment momentum remains strong, with capital expenditure rising in the first half of FY26.

For APSEZ, Fitch noted a strong business profile backed by diversified port operations, advanced logistics infrastructure and healthy throughput growth. The company's total debt-to-EBITDA ratio is expected to remain below 2.5x through FY29.

AESL's leverage is forecast to peak at 5.9x in FY26, before easing, supported by new transmission and smart metering projects.



Both entities benefit from stable regulation, predictable revenues and professional management oversight. *—PTI*

M'rashtra, 1st state to partner with Starlink

MUMBAI, 5 NOV

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday announced partnership with billionaire Elon Musk's satellite communications venture in India to deploy a host of satellite-based internet services, becoming the first Indian state to formally tie-up with the US firm.

The government signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt Ltd.

This marks Maharashtra as the first state to collaborate with Starlink to deploy satellite-based internet services for government institutions, rural communities, and critical public infrastructure across "remote and underserved regions and aspirational districts" such as Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim and Dharashiv, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis welcomes Vice President of Starlink Lauren Dreyer, in Mumbai, on Wednesday *PHOTO: PTI*

Musk's Starlink is one of the largest companies in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry, holding the largest number of communication satellites in the world.

"It is our honour that the company is arriving in India and partnering with Maharashtra," Fadnavis said in an X post.

The Maharashtra-Starlink collaboration supports state's flagship Digital Maharashtra mission and integrates with its EV, coastal development, and disaster resilience programmes, he noted.

With this landmark decision, Maharashtra will lead India in satellite-enabled digital infrastructure, Fadnavis maintained.

"This is a giant leap towards future-ready Maharashtra and sets the benchmark for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India mission at the grassroots," he said. *—PTI*

Mitsubishi acquires minority stake in KIS Group

BENGALURU, 5 NOV

KIS Group, a Bengaluru-based Biogas and Biofuels technology firm, on Wednesday announced that Mitsubishi Corporation, one of Japan's largest global integrated business enterprises, has acquired a minority equity stake in its Indonesia operations. This investment marks Mitsubishi Corporation's first entry into the global biogas market, it said.

Founded in 2006, KIS group has a presence across 11 countries, including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, USA, UAE, Brazil, Colombia, Qatar, and Spain, and is known for delivering end-to-end solutions across sectors like palm oil, sugar, dairy, paper, distilleries, and agro-processing.The company aims to invest $1 billion across renewable gas and biofuel solutions in Southeast Asia & India by 2030, it said.

According to the company, this strategic investment marks a significant milestone in KIS Group's growth journey. *—PTI*

'7 in 10 GCC leaders based in Hyderabad & Bengaluru'

MUMBAI, 5 NOV

Leadership roles in Global Capability Centres (GCCs) remain heavily concentrated in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, which together account for nearly 70 per cent of such positions in India, a report said on Wednesday.

Quess Corp's 'India's GCC- IT Talent Trends 2025: New Entrants Shaping India's Capability Evolution' report has revealed that leadership density continues to be concentrated across Hyderabad and Bengaluru, which together account for seven in 10 GCC leadership roles.

Hyderabad recorded the highest requisition growth at 42 per cent year-on-year, attracting a competitive premium of 6-8 per cent, it stated.

Bengaluru remains the largest talent anchor pool, commanding a cost index 8-10 per cent above the market average, it added.

Hyderabad and Bengaluru anchor leadership and design.

Chennai has emerged as the preferred location for finance, risk and control-oriented work, reporting retention levels of around 94 per cent, the highest among tier I cities. *—PTI*

ABB, TCS extends 18-yr tie for AI-driven ops

MUMBAI, 5 NOV

IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has expanded its 18-year partnership with ABB, a global leader in electrification and automation. The partnership, according to a TCS statement, aims to modernise ABB's global hosting operations, simplify its IT landscape, and strengthen its digital foundation to drive resilience and innovation.

As part of this multi-year engagement, TCS will operationalise ABB's Future Hosting Model, a next-generation modular IT infrastructure designed to streamline systems.

This model will enable predictive operations, faster service restoration, and continuous security assurance through its AI-powered Zero Ops framework. This extension strengthens a trusted collaboration that has already delivered significant progress for ABB.

TCS said the partnership will help accelerate ABB's Core Platform vision which prioritises modernisation at scale, greater self-service and automation, cloud migration and agility, and orchestration and resilience.

Alec Joannou, Group CIO, ABB, said, "Our extended partnership with TCS strengthens ABB's ability to deliver value to customers. By modernising our hosting operations, we're creating a foundation for agility, faster innovation, and improved reliability across the business."

TCS' AI framework will ensure business continuity and excellent service delivery across ABB's global operations by minimising human intervention.

Over the past 18 years, TCS has supported ABB in initiatives such as ERP implementation, cloud migration, and data center consolidation. *—ANI*

Microsoft plans Copilot in-country data processing

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Technology giant Microsoft has announced plans to introduce in-country data processing for its artificial intelligence (AI) tool, Microsoft 365 Copilot, in 15 countries by 2026, including India, in a move aimed at strengthening data sovereignty and regulatory compliance.

According to a company blog post, customers in India, Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom will have the option to process Microsoft 365 Copilot interactions within their national borders by the end of 2025.

The announcement is part of Microsoft's ongoing efforts to enhance governance, security and performance for government bodies and highly regulated industries by ensuring user data is processed and stored locally.

With in-country processing, Copilot interactions — including prompts and responses hosted on Azure OpenAI models — will be handled within local data centres during normal operations. *—PTI*

'NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS'

US bans Nvidia's AI chip exports to China

CALIFORNIA, 5 NOV

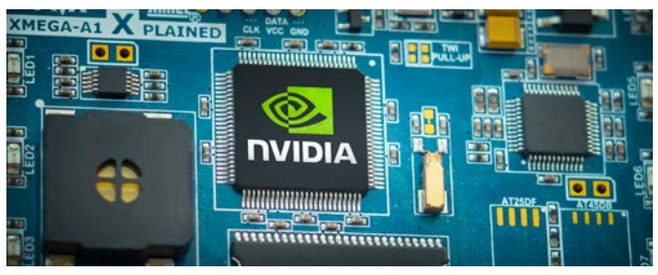
Leading chipmaker Nvidia has been prohibited by the Trump administration from selling its Blackwell chip, an advanced AI processor, to China, said sources.

According to the source, US President **Donald Trump**, during the recent US-China Summit, had indicated a possibility for limited export of the chip.

The Trump administration later decided against the sale of Blackwell chip, stating national security as a major concern, it said.

According to the White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt, the chip will be reserved for domestic use as it is the core of next-generation AI functioning.

She added that this move lines up with the US' export curb, which focuses on restraining China's access to semiconductor technology, which could boost the country's military and AI competence.



- Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang expressed disappointment about the decision, emphasising the company's contribution towards China's AI ecosystem.

However, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang expressed disappointment about the decision, emphasising the company's contribution towards China's AI ecosystem.

"Nvidia has not even applied for export licenses for its latest chips to China due to the geopolitical and regulatory environment," the CEO said.

Huang added that pushing China's talent and skills could eventually affect the US technology sector's position, as other global partners will get the opportunity to partner with China.

Additionally, China has tightened the imports of US semiconductors, with authorities keeping a stringent inspection on unauthorised shipments, it said.

The country also instructed its tech firms to halt buying of specific Nvidia models, which are designed for the domestic market, it added. *—Agencies*

Goyal, McClay push for balanced India–NZ trade deal

AUCKLAND, 5 NOV

India and New Zealand are moving steadily towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with both sides expressing optimism about achieving a balanced and mutually beneficial deal.

Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** met his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay in Auckland on Wednesday to review the progress of negotiations, which formally began in March 2025. The fourth round of talks commenced on 3 November.

Goyal said he was "delighted to be in New Zealand to review the progress of the ongoing FTA negotiation," adding that both countries were committed to fast-tracking a comprehensive economic partnership. He also plans to meet business leaders and investors to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Following meetings attended by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, McClay said both governments had made "great progress" and were focused on ensuring the agreement is fair and durable.

He emphasised that strengthening ties with India was a strategic priority for New Zealand, noting the rapid growth in trade and cooperation.

During Luxon's visit to India earlier this year, 33 Memoranda of Understanding were signed, including an agreement between Air India and Air New Zealand for direct flights by 2028. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour: Vani drops two late bogeys

JAIPUR, 5 NOV

Vani Kapoor appeared to be on a birdie spree before two late bogeys pegged her back, as she carded a two-under 68 to share the lead with Shagun Narain and Jahanvi Bakshi in the 14th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.Vani was four under through the front nine at the Ram Bagh Golf Club, but the four-time winner in the 2025 season ran out of birdies on the back nine and dropped shots on the 15th and 17th holes at the par-70 course. She finished the day tied at the top with Narain, who is chasing her maiden title, and a resurgent Jahanvi, making her way back after a long injury lay-off.—*PTI*

Pak beat SA by 2 wickets in ODI series opener

FAISALABAD, 5 NOV

A full-strength Pakistan beat a spirited South Africa by two wickets in their ODI series opener to mark the return of international cricket in Faisalabad after a 17-year absence. Pakistan tailenders hung in to reach 264-8 in the last over as an inexperienced South Africa fought gallantly to claim four wickets in the last five overs and pushed the home team to the limit. South Africa, which lost its sixth straight toss across formats on its tour of Pakistan, couldn't capitalize on half-centuries from debutant Pretorius (57) and Quinton de Kock (63) before it got bowled out for 263 in 49.1 overs. Pakistan 264 for 8 (Agha 62, Rizwan 55, Bosch 2-32, Ngidi 2-46) beat South Africa 263 (de Kock 63, Pretorius 57, Naseem 3-40, Abrar 3-53) by two wickets—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@MBAPPE

Kylian Mbappe struggles again at Anfield

LIVERPOOL, 5 NOV

Kylian Mbappe has been near-unstoppable this season. At Anfield on Tuesday night, he hit a roadblock. Again. For the second year running, the Real Madrid forward had a night to forget on Merseyside as Liverpool won 1-0 in the Champions League, and Mbappe looked a shadow of the player who has been tearing defenses apart all season. "We were lacking that threat in the final third," said Madrid coach Xabi Alonso, without naming Mbappe individually. But the France World Cup winner rarely looked capable of finding a breakthrough against a Liverpool team that has been so defensively fragile for much of the campaign. Mbappe arrived at Anfield on a run of 21 goals in 17 games —*PTI*

NBA roundup: Bulls pull off a win against Philadelphia

NEW YORK, 5 NOV

Nikola Vucevic drilled a go-ahead corner 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds left, and Josh Giddey recorded his second straight triple-double as the host Chicago Bulls rallied for a 113-111 win against the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday night. Vucevic's trey gave the Bulls their lone lead of the night and capped a comeback from a 24-point deficit. Chicago trailed by 13 points with 10 minutes left and by nine midway through the fourth quarter. Giddey contributed 29 points, 15 rebounds, and 12 assists for the Bulls, while Vucevic had 19 points and 10 boards. Philadelphia missed its final 11 shots and scored just 36 second-half points. Tyrese scored a game-high 39 points while drilling six 3-pointers—*PTI*

PM Modi meets victorious Indian women's cricket team

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the triumphant Indian women's cricket team at his residence and lauded the players for their "remarkable resilience and comeback" in the World Cup after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats.

The Prime Minister also referred to the trolling the players had faced on social media after the early setbacks and praised them for showing exemplary mental strength to bounce back and script history.

Recalling their earlier meeting with Modi after the 2017 World Cup, captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team had then come without a trophy; hopefully, they will achieve success and get to meet him more often.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said the Prime Minister's words were a huge source of motivation.

The Harmanpreet-led side arrived in the national capital on Tuesday evening for the meeting, two days after scripting a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title the 50-over World Cup with a 52-run victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai.

During the interaction, Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma told Modi she had been waiting to meet him since 2017, recalling how he had then urged them to keep working hard to achieve their dream.

When the Prime Minister mentioned her "Jai Shri Ram" Instagram bio and the tattoo of Lord Hanuman on her arm, Deepti smiled and said they gave her strength. —*PTI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets the Indian Women's World Cup-winning team at his residence in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

HE'S A TOUGH ONE: SHORT ON VARUN

CARRARA, 5 NOV

Australian batter Matthew Short on Wednesday conceded that Indian mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been hard to figure out, but the home team is doing all it can to decipher him before next year's T20 World Cup in the sub-continent.

Chakravarthy has picked up four wickets so far in the ongoing T20 series that is locked 1-1 after three games, with the fourth one scheduled here on Thursday.

"Oh, he's tough. I think what makes it harder is just how quickly he bowls. We've obviously watched a lot of footage and whatnot. But, yeah, that's probably going to be the other challenge heading to India if it is spinning or Sri Lanka as well," Short said when asked about the 'mystery spinner' in the pre-match press conference.

The World Cup is set to be staged in India and Sri Lanka come February-March.

"So here in Australia, there's probably not as much spin as subcontinent, obviously. So, yeah, he's a tough one. But, yeah, one we'll have to look out for," he added.

Chhetri missing as Khalid Jamil names 23 probables

AC qualifiers match: Game will be held in Dhaka on 18 November

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil on Wednesday announced 23 probables for the inconsequential Asian Cup qualifiers match against Bangladesh, and talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri's name is missing from the list.

The game is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on 18 November.

India is already out of contention for a berth in the main tournament to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2027 after losing their previous match against Singapore (1-2) in Margao last month.

It is learnt that more players would most probably be added later on for the national camp starting in Bengaluru on Thursday. Usually, 23 players make up the final squad for any tournament.

It is not known if Chhetri's name will be included later, and his exclusion it's not a surprise since he had come out of retirement to help India qualify for the Asian Cup, which has not happened.

The Indian team will travel to Dhaka on November 15. The FIFA international window is from November 10-18.

Among the probables, Mohammed Sanan, who was called up to the U23 squad earlier this week, will join the senior team instead.

Super Cup knock-out stage likely after Nov 26

The semifinals of the Super Cup are unlikely to be held before November 26, as FC Goa plays Al Zawraa SC of Iraq in Baghdad in their AFC Champions League Two group match on that date.

FC Goa are in the Super Cup semifinals, and they also play their ACL 2 match in Iraq on November 26. They have to reach Iraq a few days before November 26. The Indian team plays Bangladesh on November 18.

"So, it is impossible to hold Super Cup semifinals before November 26," said an AIFF source.

He said the AIFF had announced only the schedule of the group stage of the Super Cup -- which ends on November 6 -- but not the dates of the knock-out stage.

The probables: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Hrithik Tiwari, Sahil. Defenders: Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Bikash Yumnam, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingan.

Midfielders: Ashique Kuruniyan, Brison Fernandes, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam. Forwards: Irfan Yadwad, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Mohammed Sanan, Rahim Ali, Vikram Partap Singh. —*PTI*

talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri **PHOTO: PTI**

Labuschagne returns to Australia's Ashes squad

GOLD COAST, 5 NOV

Marnus Labuschagne is back in Australia's squad to start the Ashes series, with selectors including the veteran batter Wednesday in a 15-man group for the first cricket test against England.

Labuschagne missed Australia's three-test series win over the West Indies in the Caribbean in July after a lean run of form, but he has regained confidence with some impressive innings in first-class cricket.

Opening batter Jake Weatherald could make his debut in the Nov. 21-25 match in Perth after being selected ahead of Matt Renshaw and Sam Konstas, although that depends on who is chosen to open with Usman Khawaja.

The 31-year-old Weatherald was the leading scorer in the Sheffield Shield tournament last summer with 906 runs at an average of 50.33.

He scored a century for Australia A against Sri Lanka A in a mid-year series. —*PTI*

IND VS SA: RISHABH PANT BACK

BCCI announces squad for South Africa Test series

NEW DELHI, 5 NOV

India's Test team captain Rishabh Pant has returned to the squad for the upcoming series against South Africa, as the BCCI announced the 15-member side on Wednesday. Pant suffered an injury during the England tour and was out of action until recently, when he was back on the field for the India A vs South Africa A series. Shami ignored again.

Pant will resume his job as the deputy to Shubman Gill with Dhruv Jurel, who impressed during the West Indies series, being the second-choice wicketkeeper in the squad. There was a return for Axar Patel into the Test team as Prasidh Krishna had

to make way. Akash Deep is also returning to the Test team after missing the West Indies Test series.

Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Padikkal, Dhruv, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep —*PTI*

FIFA announces new peace prize to be awarded at WC

LONDON, 5 NOV

FIFA has announced the creation of a peace prize, which it plans to award at the draw for the World Cup on 5 December in Washington.

The award, called the FIFA Peace Prize, will "recognise exceptional actions for peace," football's governing body said Wednesday. "In an increasingly unsettled and divided world, it's fundamental to recognise the outstanding contribution of those who work hard to end conflicts and bring people together in a spirit of peace," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said. US President Trump, who has a close relationship with Infantino, was passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize last month despite lobbying from fellow Republicans, various world leaders, and himself. Infantino and Trump were both scheduled to speak at an unrelated event in Miami. —*PTI*

4TH T20I

India eyes series lead against Australia

CARRARA, 5 NOV

Shubman Gill will be looking to turn the tables with a big knock after what has been an underwhelming tour when a confident India aim to go one up against a depleted Australia in the fourth T20 International here on Thursday.

The series is locked at 1-1 after three games, and the absence of Josh Hazlewood in the previous game did make a difference to Australia's defence of a standard total of 186. Going into the fourth game, there won't be any Travis Head for Australia as the opener is set to play Sheffield Shield to prepare for the Ashes. With two pillars of the rival team unavailable, this is the best chance for India to go 2-1 up before the final game at the Gabba and wrap up a series win. In the last game, India finally did look to get their combination right within their ambit of having an all-rounder at No. 8.

However, what will slightly bother the Indian team management is skipper Shubman Gill's form in the series, as he has now played six games without a half-century. —*PTI*

INDIA VS AUSTRALIA

INDIA vs AUSTRALIA
Match starts at
1.45 pm IST

HEAD TO HEAD AT CARRARA

PLAYED:	33
INDIA Won:	21
AUS Won:	11
No Result	2

WCC: Ghosh ousts Nepomniachtchi

PANJIM, 5 NOV

Grandmaster Diptayan Ghosh caused the biggest upset of the World Chess Cup,ousting former world championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia afterwinning the second game of the second round here on Wednesday.

In what was simply a one-sided affair, Ghosh did not give any chance to Nepomniachtchi, who was rathererratic with his white pieces.

The opening gave Ghosh an unclear position early, and Nepomniachtchi missed a simple tactic early in the middle game, which costhim a pawn. Once the technicalitiesar- rived, Ghosh was at the top of his game and kept on increasing pressure byexchanging pieces at regular intervals. Soon, it was a rook and pawns endgameon the board in no time."This is certainly thebiggest victory of my chess career, beating Nepo in a match," said Ghoshafter his win.

Earlier, Grandmaster PHarikrishna became the first Indian to advance to the third round aftercrushing Nesterov, also of Russia, while world junior champion Pranav suffered a huge defeat against Aryan of Norway. —*PTI*

Diptayan Ghosh **PHOTO: PTI**

WI edges NZ despite Santner's brilliance

AUCKLAND, 5 NOV

A brilliant bowling performance secured West Indies an unlikely seven-run victory in the first T20 against New Zealand on Wednesday, despite a stunning solo effort from Mitchell Santner.

West Indies, which landed in New Zealand only two days ago, struggled on the Eden Park drop-in wicket that offered some seam and turn to the home bowlers, making 164 for six from its 20 overs.

West Indies 164 for 6 (Hope 53, Powell 33, Duffy 2-19) beat New Zealand 157 for 9 (Santner 55*, Chase 3-26, Seales 3-32) by seven runs —*PTI*

B'desh Alam accuses Nigar of 'beating juniors'

DHAKA, 5 NOV

Veteran Bangladesh women's pacer Jahanara Alam said that captain Nigar Sultana Joty beats junior cricketers, an allegation that has been rejected by the national cricket board (BCB).

Alam, who last played for Bangladesh against Ireland in December last year, made the comments in an interview with Bangladesh daily Kaler Kantho. "This is nothing new. Joty beats up the juniors a lot," Alam said. "Even during this World Cup, the juniors told me, 'No, I won't do this again. Then I'll have to get slapped again.' I heard from some people, 'I got beaten up yesterday.' Even during the Dubai tour, she called a junior into the room and slapped her," she added. The 32-year-old Alam, who has taken 48 wickets in 52 ODIs and 60 in 83 T20Is for Bangladesh, said that the team environment had worsened over the years, forcing her to step away for the sake of her mental health.

"Actually, I am not alone; everyone in the Bangladesh team is more or less a victim. —*PTI*

WILL BE EMOTIONAL

Ronaldo says retirement is soon

RABAT, 5 NOV

Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that he is close to retiring from professional football, in a recent interview with journalist Piers Morgan.

The Portuguese star said the moment will be tough and emotional, but he is ready for it. "I will probably cry," Ronaldo admitted. "I've been preparing for this since I was 25."

Ronaldo, now 40 years old, plays for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia and remains a key figure for the Portuguese national team.

He said that while money and fame were once important, they no longer define his happiness. "Being the first football billionaire is great," he said, "but now I just want to enjoy playing, training, and competing." He also addressed criticism about his personality, saying, "People say I'm arrogant, but I don't care anymore. I just want to do what I love. I don't care about public opinion. All I want is to enjoy football, training, and competition, that's what truly matters to me."

Ronaldo began his professional career in 2002 with Sporting CP in Portugal. He quickly moved to Manchester United in 2003, where he won multiple Premier League titles and the Champions League. In 2009, Cristiano Ronaldo joined Real Madrid from Manchester United and went on to become the club's all-time leading scorer.

During his nine seasons in Madrid, he scored 450 goals in 438 matches, winning four Champions League titles and multiple domestic honors.

For Portugal, Ronaldo has netted 143 goals in 225 international appearances, making him the highest-scoring player in men's international football history. —*PTI*

CRISTIANO RONALDO
PHOTO: X/@ @CRISTIANO